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New immigration rules easing UK entry for spouses lead to unwanted arranged weddings for hundreds of Muslim women

Huge rise in forced marriages

THERE HAS been a huge rise in the number of British Muslim women forced into arranged marriages following a decision by the government to liberalise the immigration laws last year.

Civil rights campaigners say hundreds of young women are being tricked abroad, mainly to Pakistan, where they are married and forced to live in remote villages. Women's groups have set up several new refuges to cope with the numbers seeking help and new identities.

Police say they have even come across "bounty hunters", men paid thousands of pounds by Muslim families to hunt down their daughters and help smuggle them to Pakistan.

The increase in forced mar-

riages has two causes. Firstly, a growing number of second-generation Muslim girls are refusing to conform to their traditional roles and demand the right to choose their own husbands. And secondly, more women are used to obtain residence permits for family members or friends living abroad.

Home Office figures show that the number of Pakistani men using their wife's status to gain entry to Britain has more than doubled from 1,740 in 1995 to 3,510 last year.

The biggest rise came after the new Labour government, in one of its first measures last

year, simplified the procedures for a British person wanting to bring their spouse to settle in Britain. They abandoned the hated "Primary Purpose Rule," which made consular staff rule on whether the main purpose of the marriage was to gain entry into the UK before issuing a visa.

In February last year, before the rules were changed, the High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan, issued 255 visas to spouses. This year it issued 1,132, nearly five times as many.

Critics say the result is a flourishing trade in forced marriages, with British-born and educated women spirited abroad to lives of misery married to men they have never met. Often, they are virtual

prisoners in remote villages.

Those that return to Britain while their new spouses apply for visas - which take about two months to process - often beg the Foreign Office to reject their husband's application.

Women's groups and MPs last night called on the Government to provide more support for Asian women.

Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, has asked Baroness Symons, Minister of

State at the Foreign Office, said the government unequivocally condemned the practice of forced marriage.

"You have a basic human right not to be forced into marriage. But this mustn't be confused with arranged marriages. However, she rejected calls for embassies abroad to intervene to help British-Asian women forced into marriages. "They are not quasi-police men who are able to go out and find people who have gone missing," she said.

In Bradford, a police-backed scheme - similar to a witness protection programme - helps women change identities, find new homes and encourages employers to erase them from personnel records and find them new jobs.

Jahangir Mohammed, deputy leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain, said: "There are problems in a tiny minority of marriages and perhaps they are increasing, but to force anyone into a marriage is totally un-Islamic."

"These are difficult times for the muslim community. We see problems with crime and drugs for the first time, but we believe these are linked to unemployment brought on by racism against muslims."

"The unemployment rate among muslim graduates is 60 per cent. That is a much bigger problem to be dealt with."

Some women's groups say the increase of Pakistani men entering Britain using their wife as a sponsor reflects a failure by British officials in Islamabad to check if marriages are wanted or enforced.

Hannana Siddiqui of the Southall Black Sisters women's group: "The British government could and should be doing more and their failure to act to help Asian women who are kidnapped and taken abroad to be married is basically racist."

"They are saying 'we have to be sensitive and not criticise other cultures' but in doing that they are allowing violations of women's human rights to continue."

INSIDE

Bounty hunters' trail forced brides, page 3
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"We've received 440 such letters in the past year," said a member of the High Commission in Islamabad. "More arrive each day. But there's nothing we can do unless the woman is prepared to go public."

State at the Foreign Office, to intervene in the case of a constituent's girlfriend who vanished after what he fears was a forced marriage. She said the Foreign Office gave her the impression they would not help.

Parents told not to let children play alone

SAFETY PACKS for parents who are worried about the risks from paedophiles are being drawn up by charities and the Government.

They will advise parents not to let children play alone in quiet places, suggest ages at which they might be allowed to run errands alone, and tell parents how they can vet people who work with children.

News of the packs comes as children across Britain begin their summer holidays this week and follows the furore over the release from prison of Sidney Cooke and Robert Oliver. The packs will emphasise that there could be dozens of sex offenders living in any community, many with no criminal record.

The Independent has learnt that Jack Straw, Home Secretary, has asked for the packs in order to increase the level of understanding of the risks posed by paedophiles and the most effective measures for limiting their activities.

Mr Straw decided on the plan after talks with Dan Norris, the Labour MP whose Bristol constituency has been the scene of violent protests by vigilante groups over the presence of paedophiles. Last night Mr Norris said: "At the moment the reaction of grown-ups is a very strong and angry one to hit them or lock them up. What's needed is a reaction which makes children safer. It may be less satisfying to read a booklet rather than rant and rave but you have to think about protecting children."

It is envisaged that the packs

will be made available through local authorities and police stations and possibly at supermarkets and doctors' surgeries.

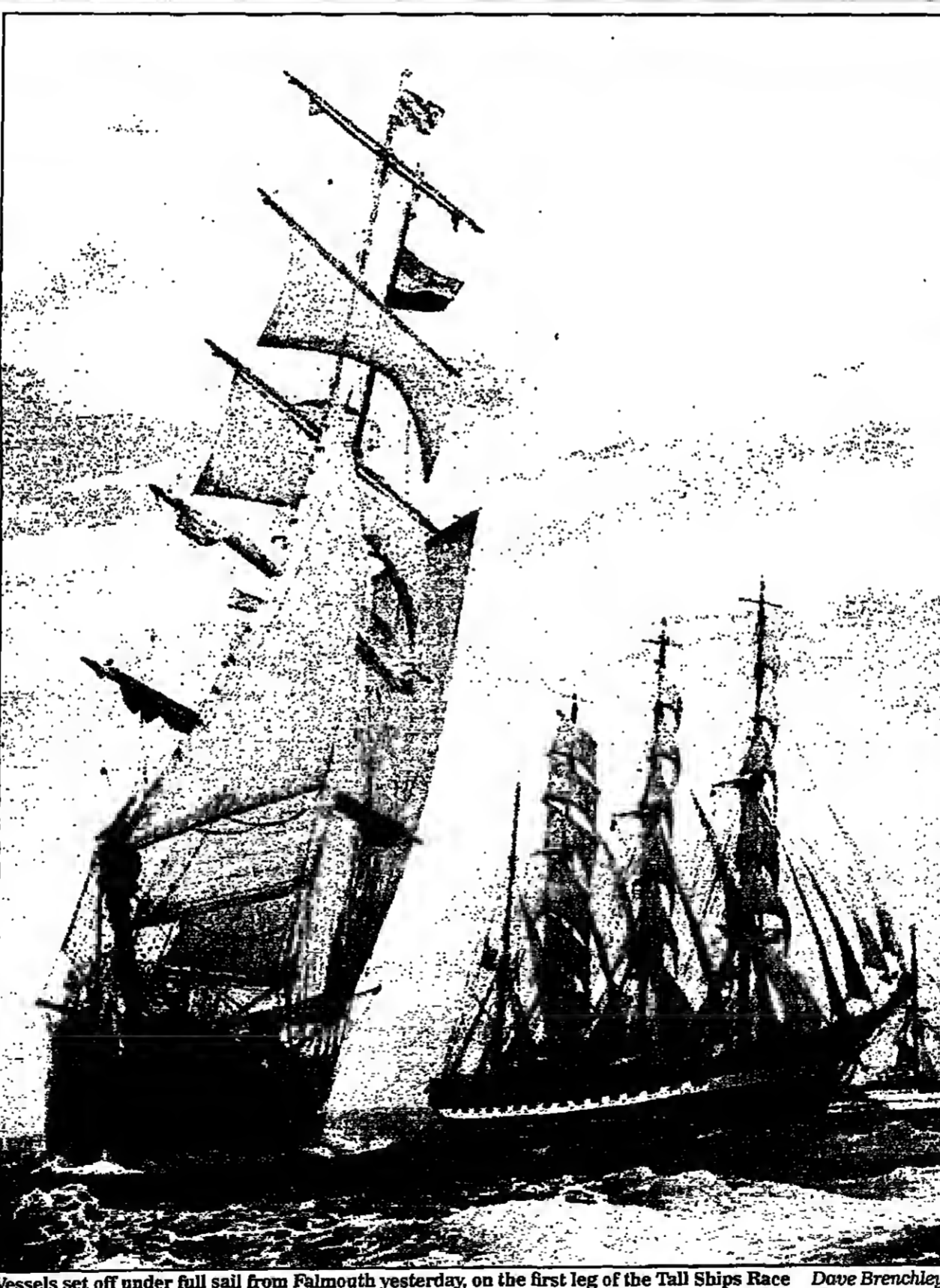
The packs are being drawn up in consultation with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the charity Kidscape. They are being drafted by David Niven, of Action on Child Exploitation, who said that the problem of child sex abuse was never going to go away.

"People must realise that if they think that a paedophile has moved into their area that is very dramatic but there could be 20 or 30 paedophiles in their area already. The issue is to make children safe and this information helps with that."

Mr Niven has also consulted the British Medical Association, police and probation officers and community groups in Wales, London and Newcastle. He said the safety packs would include advice on good parenting with a separate section describing "in plain English" the law as it relates to sex offenders.

Last night Gill Mackenzie, vice-chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, which has claimed vigilante action is wrecking attempts to work with sex offenders, said the parent pack was a "superb idea".

"I have been calling for something like this for a long time. I would be delighted if we could reach more parents with better information and advice."



Vessels set off under full sail from Falmouth yesterday, on the first leg of the Tall Ships Race. Dove Brenchley

Bodies smashed on to palm trees

THOUSANDS OF Papua New Guinean villagers were still missing last night, 48 hours after a tidal wave caused by an earthquake below the seabed roared towards the coast with the noise of a jet engine and swept away their homes.

It claimed the lives, on latest estimates, of 1,000 people. Many people were buried in the sand, some lucky few eventually managing to grab the hands of rescuers. Others were killed or injured after being smashed into trees or other debris by the force of the wave.

In one lagoon, the bodies were so numerous that a local man reported his boat could not pass through them.

In the tropical heat the bodies were quickly deteriorating. Bereaved families dug makeshift graves in the rubble of their homes. There were no coffins - the dead were simply covered with straw matting,

while dogs started to eat others. Authorities at Aitape, on the country's north-western coast, said the wave - or tsunami - had wiped out three villages and had almost destroyed another.

The district disaster co-ordinating chairman, Dickson Dalle, said it was impossible to know with any precision how many people were missing. "There are still people out there who are injured that we have not rescued," he said. "They're scattered all over in the mangroves."

He said most of the victims were old people and schoolchildren. "Schools in the villages of Arop, Sissano and Warapu will be closed because we don't have the children," Mr Dalle said. "They're all dead."

Lagoon choked with bodies, page 12

Fiji votes to make Queen 'supreme tribal chief'

THE ROYAL Family may have an image problem at home, but the Queen, at least, appears to be a hit with the peoples of the Pacific.

This week, tribal chiefs in Fiji will decide whether to restore her as their sovereign. A Fijian government spokesman said yesterday that the matter

should be debated at a two-day meeting of the Great Council of Chiefs, starting tomorrow in the capital, Suva.

Fiji became a republic after a military coup in 1987. But it was suggested last year that Fiji

should rejoin the Commonwealth and restore the Queen as monarch.

The country's new constitution, due to take effect on 27 July, specifies that Fiji will retain its republic status, with a president, chosen by the chiefs, whose powers are restricted to acting on the advice of an elect-

ed prime minister. But the chiefs are understood to want to bolster their standing by approving the Queen's return as a symbolic "paramount chief".

Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the coup and is now the prime minister, attended last year's Commonwealth Heads of Government conference in

Edinburgh, and met the Queen there and at Buckingham Palace. He gave her a *tabua*, a sperm whale's tooth, which in Fijian custom is a gesture of utmost respect and can also be interpreted as an apology.

Half of the current members of the Commonwealth are now republics under a formulation

whereby the Queen ceases to be monarch but remains as head of the Commonwealth.

Some former British possessions remain keen to keep their links with the Crown. Last year, Tuvalu, a chain of atolls in the South Pacific, reincorporated the Union flag into its own flag after people criticised its removal.

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Forced marriages: Hundreds of young women face life on the run after rejecting weddings arranged with strangers

Bounty hunters tail runaway brides

By STEVE BOGGAN

VIOLENCE AND intimidation are being increasingly used to force ever-more reluctant British muslim women to enter into arranged marriages.

As second-generation British-Asians demand the right to choose a partner, clashes between traditionalist parents and modern children are resulting in more women being forced and threatened into marrying against their will.

Police forces, community workers and women's groups report an increase in young women running away to avoid arranged marriages, often to foreigners whom they have never met. Some are hunted down by relatives, friends or professional "bounty hunters" who demand fees of up to £3,000 for their recovery.

Philip Balmforth, a former police inspector who runs a West Yorkshire police programme for Asian runaways in Bradford, said the problem of professional bounty hunters is on the increase.

Almost every day, young women contact his special unit looking for help. He has dealt with 960 runaways since 1991, with 208 last year expected to rise to 300 by the end of this year. Where he can, he mediates between the women and their families. In drastic cases he helps the youngsters into new lives with new identities. He also persuades employers to erase personnel files and, where possible, to transfer the employee - complete with new name - to a new branch.

Last month, he helped establish a fresh identity for Rehana Bashir, 20, whose parents were jailed after drugging her and trying to fly her to an arranged marriage in Pakistan.

"If a girl refuses to go through with an arranged marriage, she is seen to be bringing dishonour to the family and in many cases that will not be tolerated," he said.

"If she runs away, efforts are made to find her. In some cases 'bounty hunters' are hired. Some do it for a living. They would ask for about £3,000 up front, plus expenses, to track her down. Once girls have been found and returned to their



Two Asian girls enjoying life in Bradford. Many others, however, are being forced into weddings to enable relatives to enter Britain

Tom Pilsdon

families, they never make a complaint, so we can't act."

One girl, who asked not to be named, sought help from Mr Balmforth. She was 19 when she was sent to Pakistan for an arranged marriage.

"You have to forget your past and get a new identity or they will hunt you down like a dog. The bounty hunters show no remorse. They just want the money," she said. "Many of my friends don't want to marry some stranger who probably can't speak English. The man I married is waiting for his visa before coming to England. I don't want him to find me."

Asian women's groups have

set up increasing numbers of refuges to help runaways, but are concerned that the issue remains a political hot potato. Those who speak out are branded racist.

Home Office figures show the number of Pakistani men granted entry to the UK as a result of their wives' status more than doubled between 1995 and 1997, from 1,740 to 3,510.

Shamsah Hussain of the Keighley Women's Domestic Violence Forum believes the figure would be much higher without the collusion of brides and immigration officials.

"Women come to us and say they are being sent on 'holiday'

or they have been told to visit their grandmother who is dying, and they worry that there is an arranged marriage waiting for them," she said.

"We advise them to go through with it if they have to but to make a note of their new husband's visa application when they are interviewed at the High Commission in Islamabad. Then, when they get home, we tell them to write to the authorities telling them that the application is based on a forced marriage."

"It is sad that we have to use what we have always viewed as racist legislation to keep these men out, but it is vital that we

protect these women's basic human rights. I reckon hundreds of unwanted husbands have been kept out like this."

Officials in Islamabad said they do try to interview women separately from husbands.

"If the girl is British and we suspect she might be there against her will, we try to get them alone so they are free to speak their minds, but some are afraid to," said one official, who asked not to be named.

"We try to help them find grounds for his refusal. But it is often difficult for them simply to say the marriage is not real because the applicant is entitled to see those grounds."

"If the reason for refusal is a woman's opposition, then she could face being ostracised for dishonouring her family."

Ann Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, is not against arranged marriages but is anxious to protect victims of violence whilst respecting her constituents' cultures. Yet she feels the pressures on muslim women are increasing.

"In the weeks after I was elected, quite a lot of men came to ask if I could help with visa applications for Pakistani men who had recently married their daughters," she said. "When I asked whether I could speak to their daughters, I was almost

always told they were too shy. "I decided to refuse to become involved unless the daughter came to see me so I could be sure she was not forced into the marriage. Now that word of that decision has got round, I don't seem to be asked for that kind of help."

"I want the muslim community to be as prosperous as the sikh and hindu communities have become, but I believe it is being held back by marriages to men who know nothing of the culture over here, who often don't speak the language and who have to be supported because they are not enabled to

benefits," she said.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

BRADFORD: The problem of forced marriages among the city's 60,000-plus Muslim community appears to be the worst in the country. A community relations unit expects to deal with 300 Muslim runaways this year. One man is awaiting trial on charges of murdering his wife, son and daughter, allegedly following a dispute over arranged marriages.

Last week, a West Yorkshire police unit was helping a couple who had been attacked by their families because they asked to marry when they had been pledged to other partners.

MANCHESTER: The mother and father of Rehana Bashir, 20, were jailed last month for drugging her and trying to take her through Manchester Airport to an arranged marriage in Pakistan.

OLDHAM: Two months ago, a woman refused to be cowed by her arranged husband who had arrived from Bangladesh. The man is now facing a charge of attempted murder after the woman was stabbed an estimated 70 times.

DERBY: A mother and two sons are facing charges over the death of their daughter/sister, 19. It is understood she was found to be pregnant when her arranged husband was waiting for her in Pakistan.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE: A police minority unit told of cases of young Asian women attempting suicide rather than entering into arranged marriages.

GLASGOW: Two girls, 16 and 22, are launching a private prosecution against their father after they were kidnapped and married off to relatives during a visit to Pakistan in 1996.

LONDON: Abdul Hoque, 53, and his wife, Ayesha, 43, were jailed after conspiring to kidnap and falsely imprison their daughter, Zinat Fatama, who chose to live with her West Indian boyfriend instead of the man with whom they had arranged a marriage.

Tricked from Bradford homes to traditional life

By PETER POPHAM in Islamabad

IN PAKISTAN, the new brides from Bradford and Oldham are a fleeting presence: a flash of jewellery and gaudy fabric framing a weeping face, glimpsed in an aircraft, a crackling voice on the phone to a lawyer's office, rumours of chains and beatings.

While in Pakistan, the girls are as utterly alone as it is only possible to be alone in a society where the individual, cut off from family and roots, is invisible and worthless.

Asma Jehangir, a campaigning women's rights lawyer in Lahore, says she takes calls every year from foreign-raised girls, but none has led to a court case. "I've never been able to do anything about any such cases because there was never anybody, a relative or a friend, who was willing to file a petition."

Very many of these stories originate in the Mirpur district of Azad Kashmir the silver of Jammu and Kashmir State which has been ruled since 1948 by Pakistan. That is because the vast majority of south Asian immigrants to



Learning traditional Pakistani kitchen skills Tim Smith

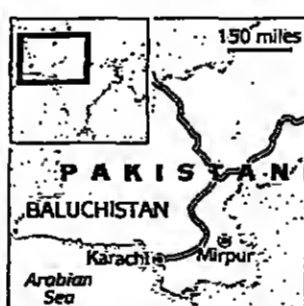
Britain, other than those from Bangladesh, are from Mirpur: more than 300,000 trace their roots to the area.

Mirpur is flat, hot and stony; harsh vistas are punctuated by dusty, impoverished villages. In the early Sixties, a catastrophe befell the area when Mirpur itself and other towns were flooded to make a new reservoir. One hundred thousand people were made homeless. At about the same time, British textile and engineering companies were on the look-

out for cheap labour and many spent their compensation money on the fare to Britain.

The immigrants prospered but their relatives in Mirpur continued to live in rural poverty. While the immigrants' children were educated, back in Mirpur illiteracy remains widespread. The cultural gap is huge.

In a book published last year by Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Ima Imran documented the reactions of British-raised girls to



life in their ancestral villages. "The women here work really hard," said one. "They work all the time." "It's hard to live here," echoed another. "Some of them treat us like, 'Oh, stupid from England!'"

But the trials are more than just cultural readjustment. "These girls are brought to the village and told they have to marry a man they've never met, who is probably not educated," said Shahbaz Bokari, of an Islamabad support group.

"His job as he sees it is to harness her, to bring her down to earth, to tame the shrew... the girl is beaten up, battered and punished in all sorts of ways. In 1992, one girl was found chained in a basement. Many are locked up so they are unable to escape."

Easing law increased problem

THE REASON why forced marriages among women from Britain's Pakistani community have recently become an acute problem lies in one of the first liberalising measures enacted last year by the incoming Labour government.

Until last June, newly married couples in Pakistan and elsewhere, one of them with right of abode in the United Kingdom and one without, faced what many felt was an insurmountable hurdle. This was the "primary purpose rule". Before issuing the spouse with a British visa, consular staff had to decide whether the "prima-

ry purpose" of the marriage was the admission of the spouse to the UK. If the answer was "yes", the visa was refused.

This procedure was widely hated, but it did weed out marriages where the partners knew or cared nothing about each other, or where one of them ardently desired not to live with the other.

"We would have long, involved interviews with each partner," said one of the staff at the British High Commission in Islamabad, "finding out what

they knew about each other... Now the rules have been simplified and we no longer have that discretion, and as a result, the problem has become many times worse."

In February 1997, before the rule was abolished, the High Commission issued 255 visas to spouses. This February, it issued 1,132.

Now large numbers of desperate women are doing what they can to prevent an unwelcome marriage leading to cohabitation. Occasionally, a plea is so desperate that the Islamabad staff feel obliged to pass it on to the Foreign Office.

In most cases, however, all they can offer is the number of the Muslim Women's Helpline in Britain (0181 904 8193).

Another "very common scenario", according to Islamabad staff, is for the husband to remain married to his new wife for the one year it takes for him to obtain "indefinite leave to retrain" status; then divorce the wife, return to Pakistan, remarry, and bring his new wife with him to Britain. Some men divorce and remarry several times. The most marriages of any one man noted by the Islamabad staff to date was five.

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The task of reorganising our telephone numbering system to cope with the demands of the future is such an enormous one that all of the UK's phone companies have got together to implement it. Many codes are changing, not only to make space for hundreds of millions of new numbers, but also to create a clearer, simpler system. Here's how it's going to work.

00 codes will be, as they have been for a while, exclusively for international dialling. Our national area codes already use 01. Some of them will become 02. 03, 04, 05 and 06 prefixes will be set aside as an immense reserve of numbers that should last for many years to come.

07 will be for mobiles, pagers and personal numbers (we call them 'Find me anywhere' numbers). 08 will be used for freephone and other special rate numbers, while 09 will indicate premium rate numbers such as entertainment and information services.

As you can see, this reorganisation is a really 'Big Number.' And, although you'll notice that some changes have been introduced already (some new mobiles have the 07 prefix as we speak and new roles for 08 and 09 numbers are now being introduced), most of the changes won't happen overnight.

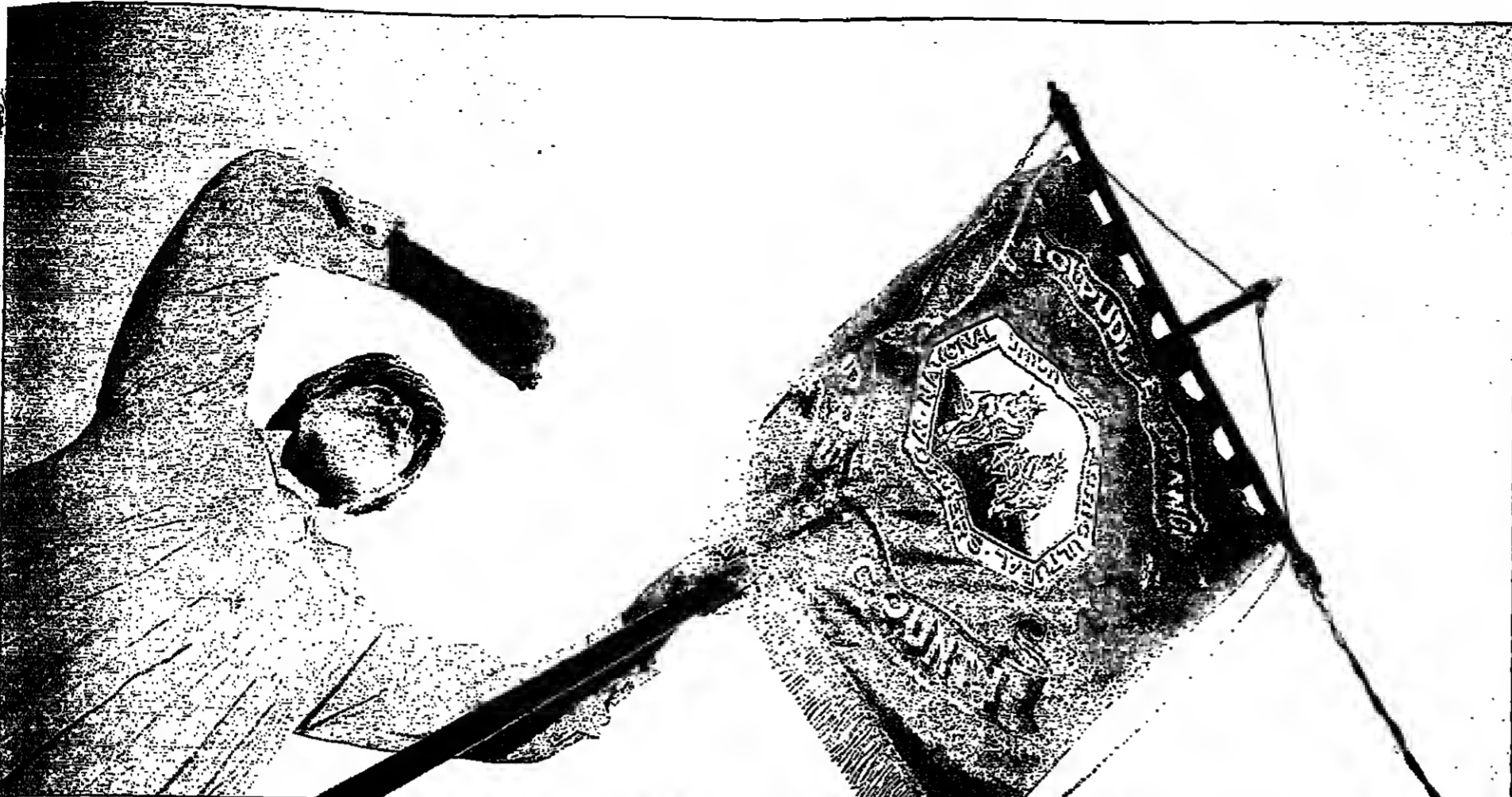
For areas receiving new codes, the changes will be phased in from June 1999, with new and existing codes running concurrently for over a year. Everyone will have plenty of time to prepare.

In the meantime, you'll find details of the planned number changes on our website which you can visit on www.numberchange.org or call our freephone helpline - 0808 22 4 2000.

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Trade unionist Charles Upton remembers the Tolpuddle martyrs, six men prosecuted for trade union activity in 1843, at a rally there yesterday

Susannah Binney

'Spy secrets' man warned

THE ATTORNEY General's office warned yesterday that the Government would take a hard line against any breach of a gagging order imposed on the former MI5 officer David Shayler.

Mr Shayler is reportedly planning to launch his own Internet website giving further details of his allegations of widespread waste, inefficiency and mismanagement in the Secret Service.

After publication of some of Mr Shayler's claims last year, the Government obtained an injunction preventing further disclosures of his time at MI5.

A spokeswoman for John Morris, the Attorney General, said: "The injunction was obtained to prevent any unauthorised disclosures by David Shayler, and the Government will take a serious view of any breach of this injunction."

However, the order only covers publication and dissemination of the material in the UK, which would seemingly allow Mr Shayler's worldwide

computer plan to slip through the net.

The former journalist fled Britain last year after the Mail on Sunday reported his claims against MI5.

He is said to have threatened to give full details of his disclosures to computer users all over the world after growing frustrated in his negotiations with Britain for an amnesty.

He told *The Mail on Sunday*: "Nothing will threaten the security of MI5 agents or staff, or compromise working methods. But there are vital matters that need a public airing and the Internet is the way to do it."

The website will be hosted by a server in the US, and will act as a forum for further debate on civil rights and the role of the security services.

A Home Office spokeswoman stressed that the injunction related only to any unauthorised disclosures which could damage Britain.

"The embarrassment factor is neither here nor there," she insisted.

Squeeze at BBC to fund top DJs

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

BBC RADIO has begun an efficiency drive across its national stations to raise money to pay for new broadcasting stars on Radio 1.

The money, likely to be around £5m, will also pay for extensive advertising campaigns for Radio 1, Radio 2 and Radio 5 Live.

Matthew Bannister, the controller of BBC Network Radio, will reveal the efficiency measures to staff this week in his annual strategy review.

On top of savings demanded by the BBC's corporate centre to help pay for the start of digital radio and digital television, Mr Bannister wants each of the national networks to make efficiencies worth 5 per cent of their programming budgets. That 5 per cent will go into an investment fund managed by him to pay for star disc-jockeys for Radio 1, advertising and marketing, and for more live broadcasts.

The BBC denies that prioritising its spending on Radio 1 means that it is downgrading Radio 3 and Radio 4 to fund the pop station.

"This is just one small pool of money," said a BBC spokeswoman yesterday. "Radio 4 will continue to have a budget which dwarfs that of Radio 1 or Radio 5 Live - and last year it was Radio 4 which benefited from the efficiency investment fund."

In the BBC's annual report, published last week, Radio 4's budget for 1997/98 was £90m. Radio 1 received £33m and Radio 2 £43m. Radio 5 Live, the news and sport channel, had a budget of £54m, while Radio 3 cost £68m.

As well as star DJs, such as Zoe Ball, who are needed to

compete with commercial radio stations, money from the efficiency fund will be spent on more live broadcasts. Radio 1 already has an extensive summer tour schedule which takes it to events such as the Glastonbury Festival and the Dance Music Mecca in Ibiza.

Now the other stations are to do more live broadcasts from events such as the Hay-on-Wye Literary Festival.

Radio 4 also plans to take its annual Reith Lectures on the road for the first time.

Money is also being earmarked for key live events around the beginning of the millennium, which will be overseen by Nicholas Kenyon, former controller of Radio 3.

"It makes sense that Radios 1, 2 and 5 Live should get the priority for marketing money because they are the ones with commercial rivals," said the BBC spokeswoman. "Radio 4 and Radio 3 are quite unique."

"We're spending more on live broadcasts because no one else does it and it is right that we spend the licence fee on distinctive services."

The Government's controversial search for a vice-chairman of the BBC will be completed this week with the expected appointment of Barbara Young, head of the environmental quango English Nature.

The job had been expected to go to Gail Rehuck, chief executive of Random House and the wife of one of Tony Blair's closest advisers. Ms Rehuck's appointment seemed secure after Lord Puttnam, the film producer, fell out of the running.

It is now reported that the Government fears being accused of cronyism and has opted for Lady Young, a Labour peer with an independent voice.

School inspectors' sums don't add up

BARELY HALF of primary schools with top exam results got top-grade reports by school inspectors, according to an Ofsted report.

The watchdog said the discrepancy was "not necessarily problematic", but gave inspectors new guidance to make "full use of increasingly reliable" test results.

Liberal Democrat education spokesman Don Foster said the poor correlation between schools' results and inspectors' judgements "could only increase concern about the accuracy of inspections."

The study compared test results and inspection judgements in more than 4,000

schools last year, showing that 1,200 got better than average National Curriculum test results in English. But Ofsted inspectors only gave top grades in the same subject to just over 700 - six out of ten. They gave top grades to 30 schools which got well below average scores.

The report argues that inspectors' judgements are about much more than exam marks, but Mr Foster said: "If we are saying that inspection judgements are only accurate when there is reliable test data to base them on, why do we spend millions of pounds sending Ofsted inspectors around schools? Why don't we just analyse test results?"

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Anglican summit: Controversy likely over homosexual clergy as Carey stresses multi-cultural aspect of gathering

A cue for dancing in the aisles

BY CLARE GARNER

IF ANY of the foreign bishops had feared the Lambeth Conference might be a cold, stuffy English affair, their minds will have been set at rest by yesterday's opening service.

The Eucharist in Canterbury Cathedral was a veritable theatrical performance, multi-cultural in tone and content. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, began with a Swahili greeting, the Epistle was read in Portuguese, the Gospel in Arabic. The choir sang a boppy South African melody, and a soloist an Afro-American traditional spiritual.

What looked to be simply an impressively international service was transformed into a dashing theatrical performance as a Panamanian troupe swooshed into the Cathedral and danced down the aisles. Dr Carey looked on approvingly from St Augustine's Chair. It had, after all, been his idea.

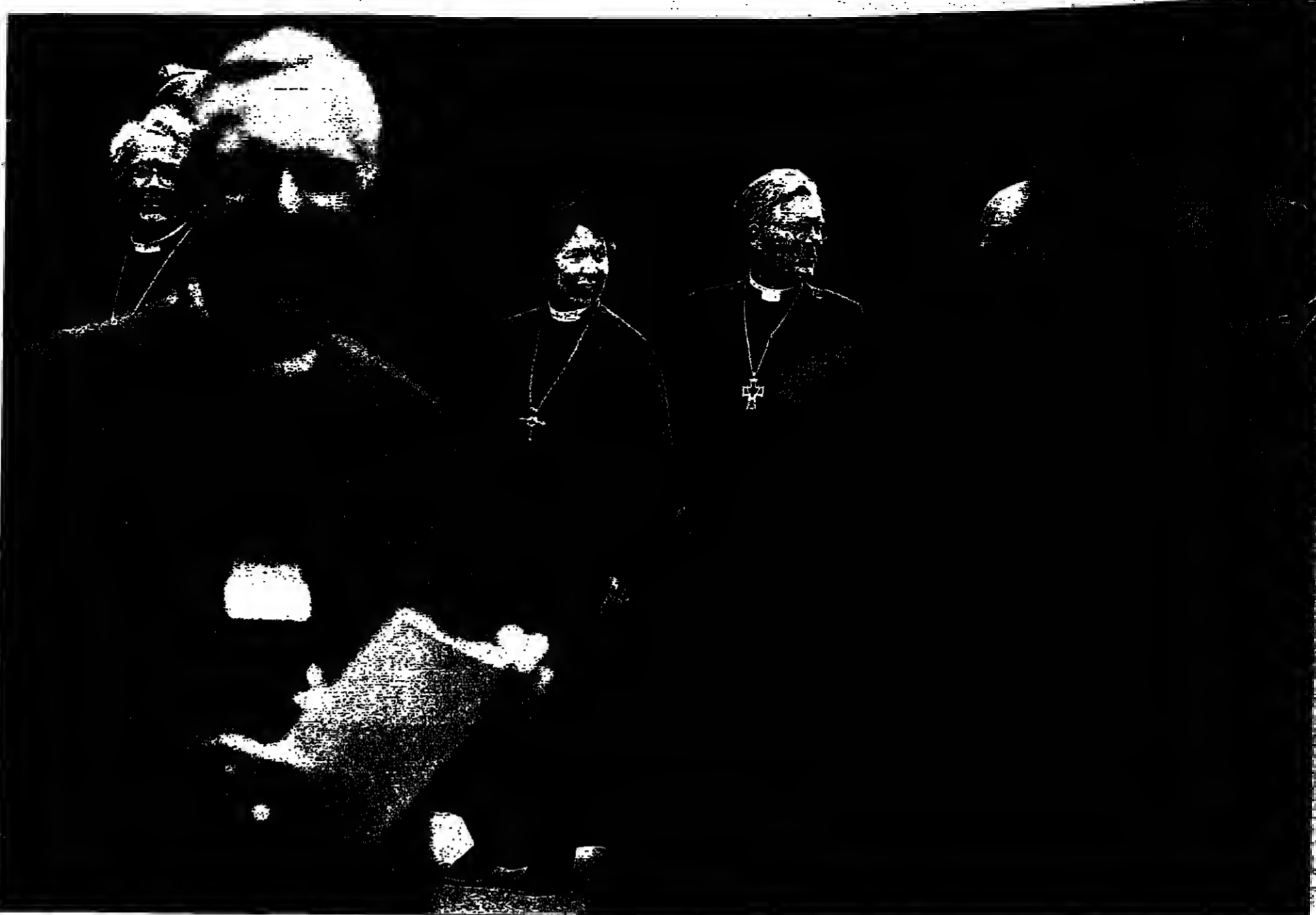
The service that began with a formal ecclesiastical procession was spiralling into an energetic and frenzied spectacle. The women darted about, frilly white dresses lending them the appearance of angels as

they shot their arms heavenward. Suddenly they melted, closing their arms like the wings of a butterfly. The cathedral fell silent and the congregation resisted the urge to clap. A moment later, however, applause broke out.

Another dramatic element was that a female bishop led the prayers. The Rt Rev Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, in the US, the most recent of the 11 women in the Anglican communion to be consecrated bishop, became the first female bishop to participate in a service in Canterbury Cathedral.

The sermon was given by the Rt Rev Simon Chwinka, Bishop of Mpwapwa, Tanzania, who said Christians needed to "treat even those whom they find resentful and who might have significant differences with them in a way that is Christ-like".

At 12.30pm the congregation streamed out of the cathedral and into the sunlight. The bishops strolled about the lawn in their scarlet cassocks; the 37 archbishops, in magnificent vestments, formed a semi-circle to shake hands with the Prince of Wales.



Bishops converging on Canterbury, Kent, for the Lambeth Conference included women for the first time, such as Catherine Waynick of Indianapolis

Brian Harris

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Gay debate to dominate conference

NEARLY 800 Anglican bishops and their spouses have flown into England from all over the world and converged on Canterbury for the largest Lambeth Conference in history.

For the next three weeks the bishops will worship together, examine policy issues facing the Anglican communion and make the most of the once-in-a-decade opportunity to share their experiences in far-flung dioceses.

Their partners will participate in a parallel "spouses' programme," which has replaced the traditional "wives' conference" because of the presence of female bishops - and hence husbands - for the first time this year.

The meeting is at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who has almost doubled the numbers this year by inviting assistant and suffragan as well as diocesan bishops. They will all be staying on the campus of Kent University.

At the top of the agenda for discussion will be international debt, the relationship between Islam and Christianity and the dearth of young worshippers. Each of these subjects is allocated eight two-hour closed sessions.

But it is homosexuality which is likely to cause the most

BY CLARE GARNER

controversy. The ordination of practising gay and lesbian priests and the blessing of same-sex relationships will form part of a wider debate on sexuality, which includes marriage, divorce, cohabitation and pornography.

Many bishops in the American Episcopal Church regard homosexuality as a priority, but the African and Asian bishops see no reason to waste time on the subject.

As a Sudanese bishop put it: "In our country, we are broken by war and famine. We can't talk of (homosexuality)."

To prevent the conference being hijacked by gay-rights campaigners, Dr Carey, who takes a traditional line on homosexuality, has backed a proposal for an international commission on sexuality to be set up.

By the end of the conference the bishops will have come up with resolutions on the major topics discussed. These will have moral, but no legal authority.

The highlights of the conference include a day out in London next Tuesday. The bishops will have tea with the Queen at a Buckingham Palace garden party, be addressed by Tony Blair at Lambeth Palace,

and board a fleet of eight boats for a trip down the Thames with their spouses.

The 600 partners, four of whom may also look forward to some entertaining diversions, devised by Dr Carey's wife, Eileen.

Besides keep-fit classes, there will be educational sessions on sexual diseases such as Aids, by the Rev Roly Bain, from Bath, who conducts his lectures dressed as a clown, and lessons in aircraft maintenance, requested by Marlon McCall, who flies her husband - the Australian Bishop of Willochra - around his Outback diocese.

This is the 13th Lambeth Conference since the first gathering of 76 bishops 131 years ago. The total cost is £2.2m, of which £1m comprises delegates' fees. The richer churches from Britain, North America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand have subsidised many poorer dioceses.

Despite the serious debate and jolly outings, the chief purpose of the conference is worship. In an average day, bishops and their spouses will spend two and a half hours on prayer and bible study. It is hoped that they will return to their 80 million world-wide Anglican flock across the six continents feeling spiritually renewed.

'Privilege' for woman who made history

THE WOMAN bishop who made history yesterday by leading the prayers in Canterbury Cathedral spoke of the privilege of representing the ten other women bishops in the world.

"I was thinking to myself that it's the first time any women bishops are worshipping at Canterbury in this official kind of way and I was feeling incredibly honoured and privileged," said the Rt Rev Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, Episcopal Church of the USA.

"It felt to me as though the Anglican Communion was full of diversity and that the service represented that diversity. To have a woman bishop in such a role was faithful to the spirit of the service since we are in three provinces." Mrs Knudsen is the latest woman bishop to be

BY CLARE GARNER

consecrated in the Anglican church. Since she was elevated to the position in March she has encountered "remarkably" little opposition.

"I would say almost without exception I've been welcomed with interest, approval and excitement. I have a real sense of being included. I haven't encountered anything overtly negative. I suspect there are people who have concerns or disagreements, but I expect they are being polite or staying out of the way."

At the last Lambeth Conference in 1988, there were no women bishops. Indeed it took all the skills of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Runcie, to prevent the Anglican Communion splitting over the

ordination of women. Mrs Knudsen, 52, was ordained a priest in 1981, after a career as a biology teacher. She has a 24-year-old son, Daniel. Her husband, Michael, a computer scientist, has not accompanied her to the conference because he is retiring at the end of August and has work to complete.

Asked what she thought was the most pressing issue of the conference, she said: "How do we live with this kind of diversity in all of our ways? Not just of worshipping, but in our traditions, in the way we deal with leadership, and the way we perceive theological questions of the day."

"I sat in my chair in the Cathedral this morning and as I was simply reflecting I thought that we can live the way we pray."

صكا من الامم

British holidays under a cloud

BY GLENDA COOPER

DISMAL WEATHER, the strong pound and the World Cup have combined to put a dampener on British tourism this year, with UK resorts seeing fewer visitors.

The "grassroots" of the industry - guest houses, seaside hotels and caravan parks - have been the worst hit with people taking fewer day trips or short breaks and preferring to go abroad.

"Outward-bound tourism has been very, very busy," said Keith Betton of the Association of British Travel Agents. "It's the reverse of what happened in 1995 when there was an incredible summer. It's a very tough time at home this year."

Wales is one of the areas worst affected with some holiday businesses fearing takings could be as much as 20 per cent down on last year. Last week the Wales Tourist Board launched a new attempt to attract bookings in July and August to support the battered industry.

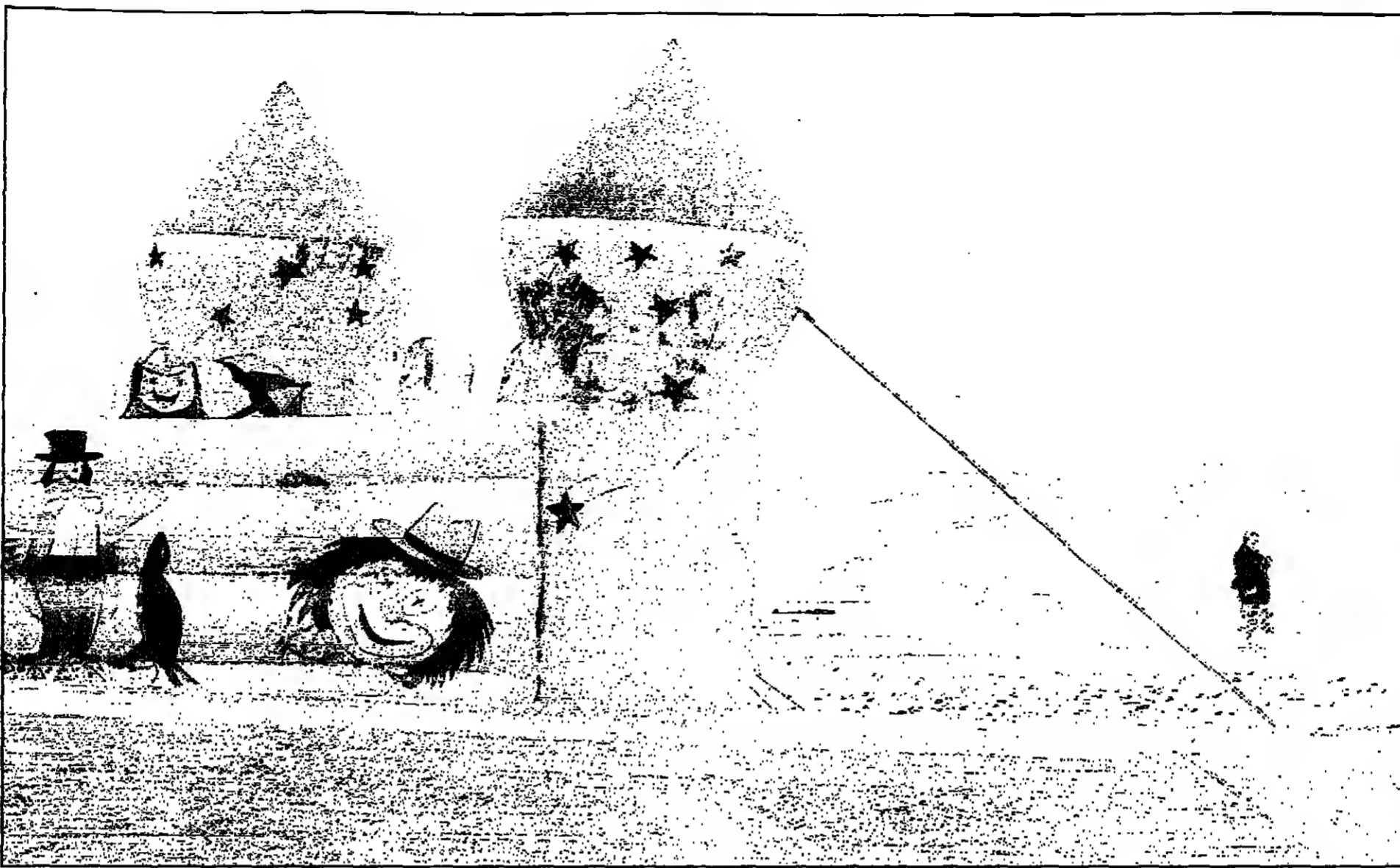
"The weather has been so unpredictable that clearly a lot of people sit on the fence until the last moment but will probably decide to go abroad where they know they'll get sun," said Mr Betton. "Going abroad is good value at the moment because of the strong pound."

A spokeswoman for the British Tourist Authority agreed. "We've heard that people are taking fewer day trips and short breaks, which a lot of seaside resorts depend on," she said.

The West Country, with Weston-super-Mare, one of the main resorts, has been "less busy" and a spokesman for Bath said the numbers of tourists were 6-10 per cent down.

In the south-east resorts, such as Bournemouth, beaches have been virtually empty. "At this time of year we would expect our beaches to be the busiest part of town, but instead people are having to go to indoor attractions," said Jude Sargeant, from the town's tourism centre.

Eileen Davis, owner of St Michael's Friendly Guest House in the town said: "The problem is it's so cheap to go abroad and here we can't guarantee the weather. When people book in February they



A houny castle attracts no takers in Redcar, Cleveland, and (right) sisters Alice Callaghan, Catherine Khan and Mary Graham, from London, insist on making the most of their holiday in St Agnes, Cornwall
Richard Rayner/Simon Burt

come whatever the weather but not as many people are booking in advance these days."

Susan Gregory, of Braemar Guest House in Brighton, agreed: "It's been quiet because the weather's been appalling. I've been doing this for 20 years and it's always the same - when it's hailing hot people want to come to the coast and when it's rainy they don't. We're lucky because we have a lot of regular guests who come back year after year."

"Every prayer mat in Scarborough is out in the hope of getting better weather," said the town's resort and entertainment officer Kevin Barrand. "However, we're not totally

downcast. The bookings for week-long holidays have been holding up and the high season officially starts next week, so we're hoping for a change of fortune."

Hotels, guest houses, and restaurants in the Lake District have also suffered.

John Curme of Orrest Close Guest House blamed the strength of the pound. "It's costing people more to come here, particularly foreign tourists. All I'm hoping for is the pound to get a bit weaker and that will help."

In Northern Ireland, tourism was again obliterated at the height of the season by the "Drumcree factor" - the

protest by Orangemen - and the violence across Ulster resulted in negligible bookings.

"The main business for hotels all over the province at the moment is from journalists," said the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Orla Farren. But the spokeswoman for the BTA said that it was possible things would improve.

"Last year there was a very wet June like there has been this year but the August figures for 1997 were the highest for eight years. We don't know yet but this year could be the same. And the weather may be unpredictable but the English are used to unpredictable weather after all."



IN BRIEF

Fresh hope for childless couples

THOUSANDS OF couples who want children will be given fresh hope today as the Government promises to end the "postcode lottery" of fertility treatment.

Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, will state her determination to stamp out regional anomalies in NHS help in the field at a Commons reception to mark the 20th birthday of the world's first test tube baby, Louise Brown.

She described the current situation as "a mess".

Cannabis haul

CANNABIS RESIN with a street value of about £277,000 has been seized by Customs officers at Plymouth ferry port in Devon.

About 80 kilograms of the drug was found in a van by a sniffer dog, under a false floor, during a routine check on Friday on the vehicle's arrival from Santander, northern Spain. The driver, Barry Colgrave, 48, of Kempston, Bedford, is due to appear before magistrates in Plymouth today.

Garden for Diana

LORD CAMOYS, the Lord Chamberlain, has put forward a compromise in the dispute over plans for a Diana, Princess of Wales memorial garden, it emerged yesterday.

The head of the Queen's Household has submitted a proposal to the Diana Memorial Committee, chaired by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, for the garden to be to the north of Kensington Palace, away from the already congested Kensington High Street to the south.

Probation fears

PROBATION STAFF cannot guarantee to protect the public from sex attackers and other dangerous criminals because of funding cuts, their union leader warned yesterday.

"Many crucial programmes for paedophiles and violent offenders will have to go by the board," said Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers.

Mathematician dies on swim around Sark

BY RANDEEP RAMESH

ONE OF Britain's greatest mathematicians, who used his expert knowledge of fluid motion to become the first person to swim around the Channel Island of Sark, has died attempting to repeat the feat 25 years later.

Sir James Lighthill, a former Provost of University College London, was found floating in the waters off the island's rocky coast on Friday night.

Noted as a strong swimmer, Sir James, 74, was close to completing his nine-mile, nine-hour swim, but was beset by rough seas minutes before reaching the end of the trip at Port Gorey, Little Sark.

"He had apparently swum around the island six times over the years, but this time he didn't make it," said Inspector Paul Gill, of Guernsey Police. "The tides are pretty big around Sark and there are some ferocious currents. The last time he was seen he was swimming against a strong tide."

A brilliant mathematician, Sir James won a scholarship to Cambridge at the age of 15, and was a Fellow of Trinity College at 21. During the war, he made his mark as an innovator in the field of aerodynamics and ended up as director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment for five years in 1959.

But academia was his true love. His genius for fluid dynamics, where mathematics is



Sir James Lighthill, after being appointed director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1959. Camera Press

used to describe the movement of waves, led him to calculate the easiest route around Sark in 1973.

He said at the time that it was "a most pleasant way to see the scenery", and described his style as "a two-arm, two-leg

backstroke, thrusting with the arms and legs alternately". This year's *Who's Who* lists "swimming" as one of his recreations.

Insp Gill said: "Apparently he went into the water at 11am, and was seen numerous times

swimming by people on the cliffs and shore. He seemed to be OK. But later he was in very rough seas. He was last seen at 7.15pm, swimming against the tide. Then he was seen floating at 8.30pm. He basically suddenly stopped swimming."

Onlookers alerted members of the crew of a local boat who retrieved his body and vainly attempted to revive him.

Sir James was staying at a hotel on Sark with his wife of 53 years, Nancy, and their son. He also had four daughters. Police would not say what was the cause of death.

Sir James was Provost of University College London for 10 years until 1989. At Cambridge he met Nancy Dumaresq, who was reading maths. They married at the end of the Second World War.

She left university before her husband and went to work at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough, Hampshire. When James Lighthill tried to get a job there, the selection board winkled out the fact he hoped to see more of his fiancée and sent him to the National Physics Laboratory at Teddington in south-west London, instead.

There he was soon working on the new supersonic aerodynamics. Later at Farnborough he was responsible for the creation of a space department and also promoted research on short-range air transport.

Asda to sell cut-price designer sunglasses

THE SUPERMARKET chain Asda is snubbing European regulators wanting to curb the sale of cheap designer goods by launching a range of Versace sunglasses at less than one-third of their normal price.

It is planning to sell 4,000 pairs of sunglasses at £50 instead of the £163 usually

charged in Versace's preferred outlets. The cut-price deal, which starts today at 83 Asda stores, comes days after the European court declared it was illegal to sell cheap goods bought outside the European Union.

Cheaper goods are bought by supermarkets from factories or wholesalers wanting to offload

excess stock - a system which creates a "grey market".

But Asda claims it has found batches of the Versace sunglasses from a source within Europe, which is still legal.

A spokeswoman said: "We wanted to give a clear example of the fact that the regulators will not stop us from going to

the grey market to bring the best value to customers. We want to show we will not let the European decision stop us from making designer goods affordable for ordinary working people."

It is expected that the EU decision will cause the grey market to expand rapidly in Europe.

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Car taxes will make buses 'first class'

NEW TAXES on the motorist to curb car use in towns and cities could turn the bus from a workhorse into a racehorse under plans for improving public transport to be outlined today by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

The White Paper, *A New Deal for Transport*, marks a major change in Treasury rules to allow transport agencies to keep the estimated £1bn they raise in new taxes on the motorist to pay for improvements in public transport.

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

"There will be a tremendous amount of extra resources that will improve the quality of the bus from a second-class workhorse to become a first-class racehorse," Mr Prescott said.

Legislation is planned before the next election, but councils will be told to make a start with new bus-only routes, and declare more car-free town centres.

Congestion-charging could amount to £3 a day to travel into towns, and an additional £150 a year on firms for every car parking space.

Steve Norris, a transport minister under the Conservatives and director-general of the Road Haulage Association, said the proposal would work if it was not seen to be anti-car. "If this is seen to be an attack only on the car - using it when everybody knows you would use it, doing things you are used to doing - then Middle

England will say 'no'. It's seen as providing a really attractive alternative - and there are ways of doing it through this charging - then I think people will say quite happily 'Yeah, let's use it'."

New motorway tolls will be proposed in the White Paper, but the Highways Agency, responsible for trunk roads, will be given a central role in using the money for road investment.

Tolls from the privately built Dartford Bridge will be used from 1999 to boost transport.

Underlining the Deputy Prime Minister's plan to establish an integrated transport policy with the White Paper, the Highways Agency will sign a concordat this morning with Railtrack to co-ordinate their strategy for road and rail use, with the emphasis on putting lorry loads on to rail, and road users being attracted on to rail services by secure park-and-ride facilities.

Parents will be urged to end the school run and instead get their children to school by

buses, bicycles or walking. They will not be banned from using their cars, however.

"Safe routes" for youngsters making their own way to school were key elements in Mr Prescott's strategy for reducing traffic congestion. "Many parents are taking their children to school - it is a fast-growing car movement area at the moment - because they feel [the safety of their children] is insecure," Mr Prescott said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

Measures to reassure par-

ents about their children's safety will include more "lollipop" men and women to help youngsters cross busy roads, school-sponsored schemes for parents to draw up "child escort rotas" and rebuilding school cycle sheds.

The White Paper will be avowedly pro-public transport, with "congestion charging" on car-parking spaces in offices, but the measures will be open to consultation. Hospital parking could be exempt.

Mr Prescott yesterday said

the emphasis would be on consensus and agreement - "not sticks telling people what you have got to do, but for them to know that it is better to do it this way".

Measures for the motorist will include new powers for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre to check on the history of second-hand cars and a commitment to improve road maintenance.

Today's White Paper will be followed next week by a White Paper on the roads programme.

You're not listening, Clarke tells his party leader

KENNETH CLARKE has spoken out against William Hague's "Listening to Britain" exercise because it rules out entry to the European single currency in the next 10 years.

The ex-Chancellor said the Tory leader should be prepared to keep open the option of joining as part of his "listening" exercise. Speaking to *The Independent*, Mr Clarke said: "I think it is a pity that 'Listening to Britain' is going to listen to every subject apart from the single currency."

"At the moment we only have a policy on one subject that he says we won't change for 10 years. I am not too worried about that, because any policy we had in 1988 would have changed before now. My real objection to leaving out the single currency is that it shows the Conservative party is still obsessed with one issue."

He thinks the Tories could still win the next election under Mr Hague, and said: "We could have won the last one but for all those stupid rows."

"I don't agree with people who say opposition parties never need policies. It worked for the Labour Party and Blair because of the bad reputation we had, and because we were divided."

"We need to form a solid body of policy on the big issues like health and education, and we need to present ourselves as a party of government, of substance, that knows what it is for."

He is opposed to the strategy advocated by some leading players in the Shadow Cabinet, presenting the Tories at the next election as the party of low spending and low taxation, without trying to match Labour on the NHS and schools.

"I think it is a great mistake to concede, if we were to concede to the Labour Party, concern about the health service and education. That would be a mistake."

Michael Heseltine is spending more time with his trees, but the Clarke baggy grey suit

BY COLIN BROWN

and the brown Hush Puppies are never far from Westminster. He is enjoying the freedom of life on the back benches. "I have no intention of giving up politics," he said.

Mr Clarke confirmed he was offered the job of deputy leader by Mr Hague after the leadership election, shadowing John Prescott, but turned it down.

"The reason I did so was simply to make sure I did sustain my interest in politics. I'd been on the front bench for more than 25 years. Being invited to shadow environment and transport, which is what I was invited to shadow as deputy leader ... frankly, I was extremely glad I didn't have to act as spokesman on the local government settlement."

Mr Clarke, 58 this month, a member of the Tory Cambridge set that included Michael Howard and John Gummer. He was a trial lawyer before he became MP for Rushcliffe in Nottinghamshire. He would make an effective Rumpole of the Bailey today, but felt he had "been there, done it", and opted instead for a few directorships, including BAT, the giant tobacco corporation.

He shows none of the McKinsey Business School tendencies of Mr Hague and the party vice-chairman, Archie Norman. There are no baseball caps in Ken's wardrobe, there is no "dressing-down Friday" in his diary, and he has never heard of "bin-bag Wednesday", when the desk is swept clear into a bin-liner.

His desk is a tidy mountain of old newspaper cuttings and documents. As we chatted, he began rifling through the piles for a cutting he wanted about the Bank of England. He turned up a pay cheque from one of his several directorships.

I asked him how much he was paid. "As this interview goes on, I keep thinking you are going to start running some off-beat lines," he said. How



'The economy is going to come down with a very hard bump,' predicts the former chancellor Kenneth Clarke

Doug Marke

much was he earning now? Three times his old Cabinet salary? "It's higher than that is when I was Chancellor ... but I'm not saying."

His new role in life is to act as the Oracle of Gloom to

Gordon Brown's Santa Claus. Mr Clarke is convinced that the speeding boom will end in tears: that the economy is heading for a hard landing; and that Mr Brown is making it worse by speeding mooney he

has not yet earned. Does he not feel a little sick at the sight of the Chancellor enjoying his so-called "golden legacy"?

"No. I strongly disapprove of the way he is running things. Because I am not the shadow

Chancellor, I can cheerily criticise the decisions he takes and keep forecasting that the economy is going to come down with a very hard bump."

Is there going to be a comeback for Ken, as the Leader,

perhaps? He shrugs off the idea. He has ruled nothing out, but says he would serve in a Hague government if the Tories won. And he will tell anyone willing to listen that Mr Brown is hastening that possibility.

Ashdown shifts ground with call to limit the power of Brussels

PADDY ASHDOWN, the Liberal Democrat leader, yesterday called for new limits to be set on the power of Brussels.

Mr Ashdown said he wanted to see a new "settlement" defining the relationship between the European Commission and the member states which

BY GAVIN CORDON

would guarantee that they preserved their individual national identities.

"It is important that as we arrive at a new settlement, the nation state is going to be an absolutely essential part of that."

he told BBC 1's *Breakfast with Frost* programme.

"Above all, we [have to be] able to assure people that their identity as Britons or French people or Germans is not going to be undermined because we do pool some of our powers. "We must now define exact-

ly what are the limits of the power of European institutions - I passionately believe that we need to have those for the benefit of our citizens - and what powers will be left with the nation state," he said.

He insisted that he remained a pro-European. However, his

comments appear to indicate a shift in emphasis by what has hitherto been seen as the most pro-European of the three main parties.

Mr Ashdown, who this week celebrates 10 years as party leader, brushed aside suggestions that it was time for him to

make way for a younger successor. He said having built up the party from the "catastrophe" it was when he took over he was not about to give it up.

"Now politics is in its most interesting phase for half a century and I should give up now and hand over to some-

body else? You have got to be joking," he said.

"I intend to make sure that this party continues under my leadership ... to make sure we go through this Parliament and make sure that we deliver this party into government. That is what I am about."

Mr Blair has privately signalled to Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, that he is unlikely to be moved. He had wanted the Department of Trade and Industry post occupied by Margaret Beckett.

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Artist Andrew Chambers embodying the Green Man at his blooming 10-acre 'Living Earth Sculpture' at Raithby, Lincolnshire Steve Hill

Business skills to be taught in classrooms

BUSINESS SKILLS will become an everyday part of school-work under Government plans to raise standards.

Government advisers on examinations want young people to leave school or college able to use sophisticated computer databases, word processors and spreadsheets, and to be able to write reports and give presentations.

Already 10,000 pupils and students are working on pilot qualifications in so-called key skills at GCSE, A-level and undergraduate standard. Officials expect the exams to go national in the autumn of 1999.

Business leaders welcomed the development, which ministers believe will be essential to create the highly educated workforce of the future.

The new qualifications, which cover communications, computer technology and numeracy, are designed to be taught as part of A-level and GCSE studies and during work-related training courses.

They include using computer databases or the Internet

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

to find information, presenting information using computer spreadsheets and customising software to solve problems, and being able to use and interpret graphs, tables and statistics as part of a project. Students will also be taught how to write reports that are clear and correctly spelled and punctuated, and will learn how to give a 20-minute presentation to a large group of people.

Chris Wood, head of the key skills project at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), said: "Often people miss these skills. What employers have been telling us for years is that young people come to them at 16, 19 or after higher education and do not have these skills."

The new qualifications will be optional, but are expected to become an everyday part of all school and college courses.

"Our hope is that people will start developing these skills at a very early age," Mr Wood said.

Business leaders have long complained that school-leavers and even graduates start work with few of the basic skills industry requires.

A survey published earlier this month by the Association of Graduate Recruiters found that businesses were happy with academic standards, but not with graduates' ability to solve problems, communicate or work in teams. Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, said: "Soft skills like communication are becoming increasingly important, but we would go much further to look at self-awareness, self-respect and self-confidence."

Margaret Murray, head of education at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "This qualification is a very important step... A senior retail manager told me that someone with a First in English could not write a cogent report for business. People come out with grade A in English and they have difficulty communicating."

"These are not just skills for business, they are skills for life."

Green top milk may be banned

JACK CUNNINGHAM has convinced Tony Blair to go ahead with plans to ban large doses of Vitamin B6, used to treat premenstrual tension. Mr Cunningham also wants to outlaw "green top" (unpasteurised) milk.

The ban on multi-doses of Vitamin B6 is now likely to be confirmed to MPs, in spite of being opposed by a cross-party committee of MPs. Downing Street is not convinced about the plan to ban green top unpasteurised milk.

"Dr Cunningham has now got to marshal the safety arguments about green top milk but he is determined to do it," said a Whitehall source.

Government scientists have backed Mr Cunningham's views by warning that 41 samples out of 1,000 tested contained potentially dangerous bacteria - mainly enough to cause diarrhoea, although five carried salmonella and three deadly *E. coli* 0157. A fifth were contaminated with cattle faeces.

Mr Cunningham convinced Mr Blair that the Government is right to go ahead with the proposal to limit doses of Vitamin B6 to 10 milligrams a day with a health warning. A special advisory committee is looking at possible restrictions on the sale of other vitamin supplements, including vitamin C.

Downing Street is wary about banning green top milk because it will open the Government to renewed charges by consumers of running a nanny state after banning beef on the bone and confirming the ban on Vitamin B6 multi-doses.

Ending the sale of green top milk - used by the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen Mother and the Prince of Wales from their private herds - was proposed in a Ministry of Agriculture

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

consultation document, but Mr Blair hesitated after it was seen as an attack on rural communities and ordered a review of the safety-first approach by the Ministry of Agriculture. According to Whitehall sources, he told agriculture ministers: "We don't want any more bans."

The sale of green top milk is restricted in England and Wales to farm shops and milk roundsmen. The Association of Unpasteurised Milk Producers and Consumers has warned that banning it would ruin nearly 600 small farmers.

Consumers who drink unpasteurised milk vehemently defend their right to choose, regardless of the claimed risks.

The consultation period had to be extended earlier this year because of the number of objections received by the Ministry.

The ban on multi-doses of Vitamin B6 will cause an outcry among health-food enthusiasts, who regard it as an important natural way of dealing with depression in women and premenstrual tension. Jeff Rooker, the junior agriculture minister, defied a vigorous postcard campaign against the ban on large-scale doses, pointing out that some of the postcards to ministers claiming relief from PMS were signed by men.

The Government's handling of the Vitamin B6 affair was castigated by the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture, which challenged the scientific evidence and urged the Government to withdraw the proposals. The MPs also accused the special advisory committee of being high-handed with consumer groups.

We just want the facts - Julie Ward's mother

BY JACKIE BROWN

THE MOTHER of murdered British tourist Julie Ward has welcomed the news that a man has been charged with her killing, but stressed: "It is not about punishment. I just want to know what happened to her."

Jan Ward was speaking as former game warden Simon Ole Makallah prepared to appear in court in Nairobi charged with her daughter's murder a decade ago.

Makallah was a wardeo at the Masai Mara reserve where 26-year-old Julie disappeared in September 1988. His arrest was announced by Kenya's Attorney General Amos Wako on Saturday. Three other men are likely to be arrested in the next few weeks.

The breakthrough came after a 10-year crusade by Julie's father John. He has made at least 80 trips to Kenya

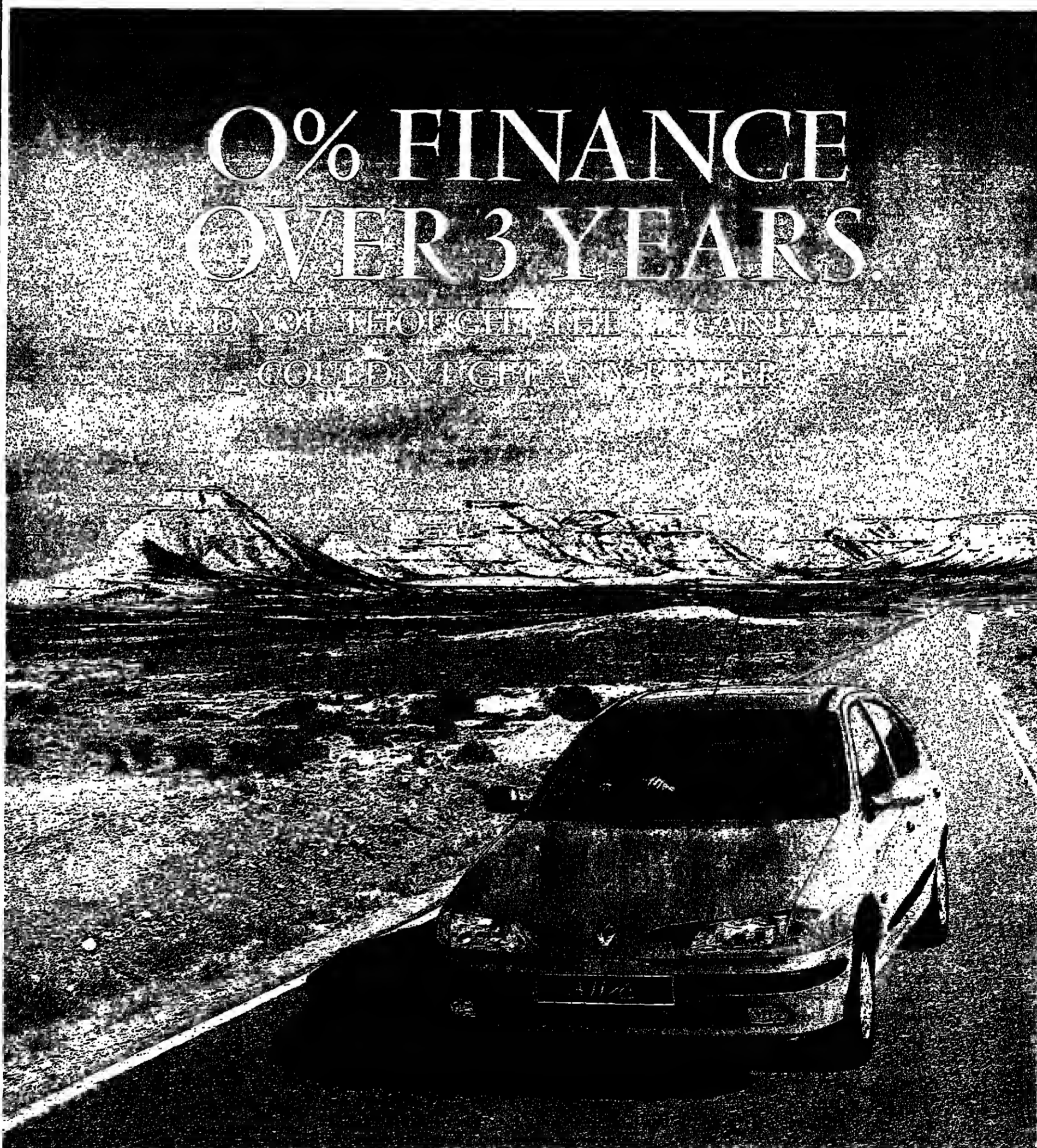
and spent more than £500,000 of his own money.

Yesterday, as the Suffolk hotelier was flying home after the arrest, he was praised by Mrs Ward, 65, praised her husband for his determination.

"I am very pleased how things are going," she said. "As far as the investigation is concerned, it is very much John's work. I am very proud of him. We would never have got this far if it had not been for him."

"I desperately want to know what happened and why. It is only when you know these answers that you can understand and accept it. This is not about punishment, it is about finding out why this happened."

Mr Ward, also 65, launched his own inquiries after finding charred parts of his daughter's dismembered body on a fire. The Kenyan authorities at first claimed she had been eaten by wild animals.



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RENAULT

Father shot and bleeds to death

BY MELISSA KITE

A MOTHER wept yesterday as she told how a paramilitary punishment gang dragged her son from his bed, as he lay with his newborn baby daughter, and shot him dead.

Andy Kearney, 33, was shot in both legs and left to bleed to death by a gang of eight men who burst into his flat in the republican New Lodge area of Belfast early on Sunday.

His mother, Maureen Kearney, 65, who broke down in tears as she spoke of the killing, said her son had been threatened by Direct Action Against Drugs, a widely accepted cover name for the IRA.

She said she believed her son, who had received numerous death threats, had been targeted by Republican paramilitaries because of a personal grudge.

Mrs Kearney said her son had been lying with his two-week old daughter, Caitlin Rose, on his chest when the gunmen burst in. His girlfriend Lisa Darragh, 25, was ordered out while they "dealt with Andy".

The attackers cuffed him on the head, possibly with a rifle butt, and may have used chloroform before they shot him and dumped him in the stairwell outside the eighth floor flat.

They cut the telephone wires and opened the lift doors at the bottom so that he could not get help. When the ambulance finally got him to hospital he was dead.

Mrs Kearney collapsed with an angina attack when doctors told her and had to be sedated. "They wanted him to die," she said.

"If they don't like you you are

dispensable and my son was dispensable," she added. "We had so much hope for the future, we never thought we would see them do this to us but I defy them to come and tell me it's not them."

Mrs Kearney cradled her granddaughter as she described her son, a keen footballer who adored his new daughter. "He loved children, he came from a big family," she said. "He would have loved a son but when Caitlin came, he said he didn't care about that. He was a handsome man."

She said she believed her son was targeted because he was a "hard man". She said: "He was a bit of a fighter. He was always getting into fights and I used to beg him not to."

"In the last week, he said a couple of wee things and I know he was still worried. At one time he actually got a note sent to his wife's house and it said: 'We are going to get you.'"

That threat was from Direct Action Against Drugs, she claimed. The Orange Order was today counting the cost of Drumcree as more members resigned because of its handling of the protest.

The Rev Robert Boyd, County Grand Chaplain of Tyrone, confirmed that several of his colleagues had resigned and more would probably follow.

He himself had "serious doubts" about his own position, he said.

"I have spoken to several chaplains and some have already resigned, some have been reassured by the statement I've issued and there are some who are seriously thinking about it," he said. "People will be thinking long and hard."



The electricity cables at Thorganby Ings, North Yorkshire, which have proved a death-trap for unwary wildfowl

Ted Ditchburn/North News

Power lines buried to save birds

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN

ONE OF Britain's rarest birds, the elusive corncrake, as well as untold numbers of swans, geese and moorhens, are to be spared the risk of a cheese-wire-style execution by overhead powerlines.

In a rare departure from its own guidelines, the Heritage Lottery Fund is to pay for the burial of electricity cables which cut right across bird flight lines in the lower Derwent valley, North Yorkshire.

Normally the fund does not give grants for putting power lines underground, arguing that while it might improve a view of the landscape, it rarely contributes to the preservation of heritage at risk. But it has decided that the site at Thorganby Ings is so special to

wildfowl, it is to grant £74,000 to the life-saving scheme - 90 per cent of the total cost.

Ings are ancient hay meadows, these havens of grasses and flowers have been farmed in much the same way for 1,000 years, and disappear under extensive flooding each winter. The description "valley" is almost a misnomer, as the rise in the land is barely perceptible on either side of the flood plain.

Wheldrake Ings, just to the north of Thorganby Ings, is a bird reserve, and the whole of the lower Derwent area is subject to a plethora of nature

protection designations. The Ings support internationally important populations of wigeon and teal ducks, and are nationally important for Bewick's swans, whooper swans, white-fronted geese, gadwall, pochard, goosanders, golden plover and ruff.

Most crucially, the lower Derwent is the last regular English haunt of the corncrake, a globally threatened species that looks something like a cross between a moorhen and a partridge. There are perhaps ten of them, though the birds are so secretive that no one really knows.

The corncrake only betrays its presence by its strange night-time call, a rasping akin to drawing a comb across the

edge of a ruler. It's a sound the fortunate might hear after dark in the hay fields of the Western Isles, but hardly one associated with North Yorkshire. To add to the air of mystery, ornithologists are not certain if only the male makes the rasping call or if the females reply.

Yet the corncrakes and all the other threatened wildfowl have faced the ever-present danger of power cables across a main flight path.

The Derwent Ings are about 12 miles long, and between a quarter of a mile and one mile across. The lines, about six metres above the ground on poles, cut directly across a pinch point in the valley.

A staggering 50,000 wildfowl fly over this point twice a day,

as they move from their safe roost at Wheldrake Ings to feeding grounds further south and back again. Not all of them make it. In misty weather, heavy birds such as swans and geese may not see the wire in time to manoeuvre clear.

"It's just like a cheese-wire across the valley," said Ian Carstairs, founding director of the trust which will receive the grant - one of 16 awards being given to nature projects by the lottery fund this week, totalling £5.8 million.

The death toll at Thorganby Ings is impossible to estimate. Many injured birds will fly on to die elsewhere, and often the casualties will disappear into flood water. On one occasion last winter during foggy

weather, a large number of coots and moorhens hit the wires and literally dozens of bodies were picked up.

By next winter the threat will be gone, as Yorkshire Electricity will have put ten spans of the cables underground. Whether the wires executed any corncrakes, which are low-level migrants like the moorhens, is not known. But Mr Carstairs is in no doubt they have been a potential threat to the birds' survival in England.

He has heard the call of the Derwent corncrakes, but never seen one. "It's just nice to know they're there," Mr Carstairs said. "The undergrounding of this line is obviously important in reducing any risk to these birds at all."

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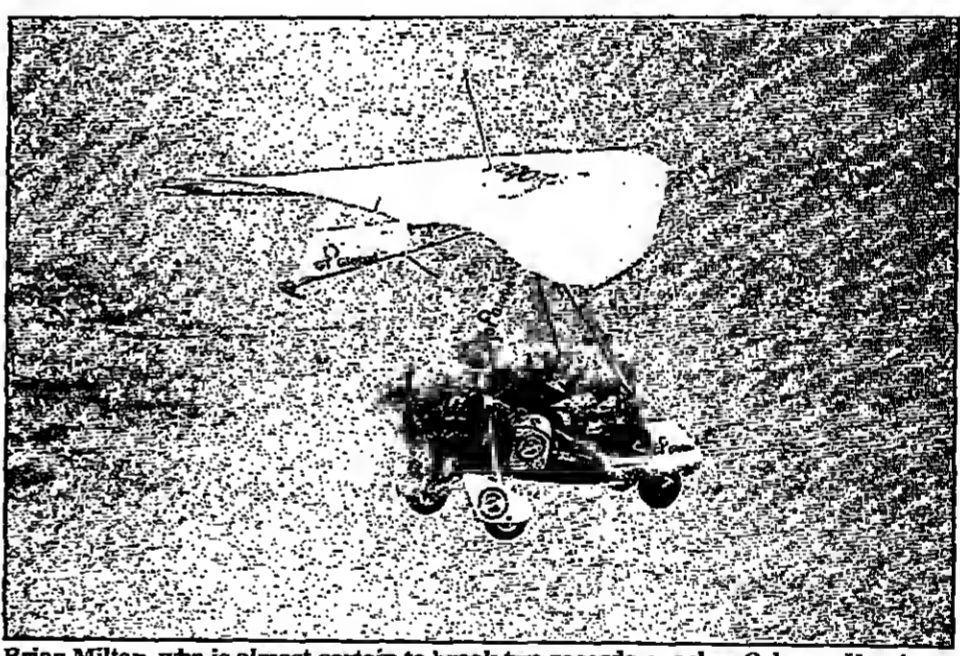
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NY1016



Brian Milton, who is almost certain to break two records, reaches Orkney Ken Amer

Micro Man lands in record books

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

BRIAN MILTON, the pilot hoping to be the first person to fly round the world in a micro-light, is expected to finish his record-breaking 24,300-mile journey today.

The financial journalist from London touched down on British soil for the first time in 117 days on Saturday night and set off on the final stage yesterday.

He is now almost certain to break two records: the first round-the-world flight in a micro-light, and the 175-day record for a round-the-world flight in an open-cockpit single-engine aircraft.

His flight was planned to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the publication of Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days* and was intended to mirror as closely as possible that of Phileas Fogg and his hulloer Passepartout who set off around the world for a bet.

But unlike Mr Fogg, who completed his voyage with enviable sang froid, Mr Milton has had numerous setbacks. During nearly four months of flying, he lost his "Passepartout" - copilot Keith Reynolds was de-

layed in Russia for three weeks, nearly forced down by a Syrian MIG fighter plane and his sponsors pulled out.

Those events were all to come when Milton and Reynolds set off from Brooklands airfield in Surrey on 24 March in the specially adapted £23,000 micro-light. The trip would take them across Europe, the Middle East, India, China, Japan, Alaska, America, Canada, Greenland and Iceland.

Just eight days into the trip, the pair were "buzzed" by a Syrian MIG fighter. The pilot tried to force the micro-light down in Damascus airspace but they ignored the warnings and landed in Amman.

They tried to cover 300 miles a day at a speed of 65mph and flew at a height of 2,000ft most of the time. But they were delayed for three days with engine trouble in Saudi Arabia. Later, they were stranded in South Korea waiting for permission to fly over Japan. They were to remain there for nine days.

But that was nothing compared with the problems that

arose when they reached Russia. The authorities accused them of entering their airspace illegally and refused to give them a flight number to continue the journey. They insisted that a plane must escort them to American airspace.

It was decided, reluctantly, that Mr Reynolds, 45, would travel to Alaska on a commercial flight while Mr Milton was accompanied by a Russian navigator.

Mr Reynolds decided to return to London after saying he did not want to take part in the rest of the trip.

Mr Milton carried on alone and managed to cross the ice bound centre of Greenland in his tiny plane. He was forced to fly at 12,000ft - higher than he had flown before - to ensure he did not mistake the ice for clouds.

"I shivered for the whole journey. I had on four flying suits including a survival suit but it was still freezing," he said. Finally, 117 days after he set out, Mr Milton touched down on British soil in Lambholm, in the Orkneys, the world record broken.

Bentley appeal begins

BY STEPHEN HOWARD

AN APPEAL to try to clear the name of Derek Bentley, the teenager who was hanged 45 years ago for murdering a policeman, begins today.

Bentley's sister, Iris, mounted a campaign to have the conviction quashed after he was executed in January 1953. In 1993, the then home secretary, Michael Howard, granted Bentley a limited posthumous pardon. But Iris Bentley died of cancer before it was announced last November that the Criminal Cases Review Commission was sending the case back for the judges to reconsider. The campaign to win a full pardon was taken over by her daughter, Maria Bentley-Dingwall.

The family has always maintained that Bentley, 19, should not have been executed for his part in the killing of Constable Sidney Miles during a break-in at a warehouse in Croydon, south London, in 1952.

PC Miles was shot dead by Bentley's accomplice, Christopher Craig. At his trial, three police officers alleged that immediately before Craig shot PC Miles, Bentley shouted "Let him have it, Chris". Craig, 16, was too young to hang, but Bentley was sentenced to death. The jury was never told that Bentley had a mental age of just 11.

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Cook book to preserve our ancient dishes

IN THE fast-moving, time-saving age that is the 20th century, home cooking is becoming a dying art as people buy more ready-made meals. Families no longer eat together and traditional recipes handed down from mother to daughter have been abandoned in favour of a snack from the microwave.

But one Yorkshire charity has started to collect old recipes after becoming concerned that many unusual and localised dishes could disappear. Age Concern, in Knaresborough, has been awarded a grant of £3,500 by the Countryside Commission to produce a unique cookery book which will raise money for the charity.

Ann Johnson, a fund-raiser for Age Concern and the project co-ordinator, has already collected more than 300 recipes, some dating back to 1820, and has begun to test some of them.

"We had one anonymous tip that the best way to make Yorkshire pudding was to add snow, but I haven't tried that one yet," she said. "The lady who told us about it insisted that her mother used to do it and the puddings were delicious."

"I did try an old Parkin recipe from 1900, although the hardest part was finding out how much a gill of milk was."

"Many old people have these recipes in their heads, and if we don't write them down they will die out when they pass away."

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

So far the charity has received recipes for nettle soup, oak leaf wine and Wilfred tarts, named after St Wilfred, who founded Ripon Cathedral.

"We must preserve these recipes as they are linked to local customs which are dying out," said Mrs Johnson.

The seeds for the project were planted three years ago when someone donated a book of recipes from 1900. A few months later, Mrs Johnson saw a television programme about the local heritage initiative and realised she could do something useful with the recipes.

The Countryside Commission, which has awarded grants to 24 projects this year, has also asked Age Concern to look at the way the recipes change in relation to the community.

Canda Smith, co-ordinator of the initiative, said the scheme was aiming to involve people in preserving their local heritage.

"It is the local things that make our lives special because that is... what gives the country its character," she said. "Recipes are a really important part of our heritage and a lot of elderly people feel that their knowledge is not valued any more, so this is a good way to involve them and learn at the same time."

Mrs Johnson said the recipes could also throw light on

the past: "We will see if there are a lot of fish recipes from Whitby and a lot of lamb pies in the Dales. We may even be able to tell if there was a big fruit growing area around here."

Her fears that traditional cooking could disappear were echoed by Derek Cooper, of The Food Programme on Radio 4.

"More and more people seem to be eating McDonald's," he said. "All the advertisements on television (say that you) should eat ready-made meals to save time. We must teach our children how to cook or we will be in danger of losing a viable British food culture in favour of alien dishes like lasagne."

"The traditional menus must be kept alive in the home or they will die out altogether."



Ann Johnson, who has collected more than 300 old recipes for Age Concern, leafing through a collection from 1884

Steve Forrest

A PINCH OF NOSTALGIA

Railway Pudding (circa 1820)

Ingredients:

One cupful of flour; one cupful of sugar; one "juice" of butter the size of a walnut; one egg; a little milk; one teaspoon of baking powder (the recipe book tells you how to make baking powder); a little salt.

Method:

Rub the butter with the flour and beat the milk and eggs together. Mix it all together and put quickly into a hot oven for 20 minutes. When it comes out splice it and put preserve between.

Meat Cake (circa 1884)

Ingredients:

1lb of cold meat minced; 1/2lb of cold potatoes broken with a fork
3 tbsps of breadcrumbs; one small onion; a little parsley chopped fine; 1/2 tsp of dried herbs; 1 tsp of salt; 1/2 tsp of pepper
1 egg or a little good gravy.

Method:

Mix all together. Grease well in a tin mould or a pie dish. Sprinkle into it some breadcrumbs. Fill it then spread some more crumbs on the top. Put some lumps of dripping and bake for half an hour.

Seasoned Yorkshire Pudding (circa 1900)

Ingredients:

1/2lb of bread crust; 3oz suet; 2tbsp oatmeal; one egg;
2 large onions parboiled and chopped; 2tbsp sage; pinch of marjoram.

Method:

Soak crusts in water and squeeze liquid out. Mix all ingredients together and put in a greased baking tin. Bake for 45 minutes to an hour in a hot oven.

Yorkshire Parkin (circa 1900)

Ingredients:

1/2lb oatmeal; 1/2lb sugar; 1/2lb plain sugar; 2oz butter;
1 1/2tbsp baking powder; 1oz ginger.

Method:

Rub ingredients together and mix with the egg, half a pound of treacle and a quarter of a gill of milk. Bake in a hot oven until risen.

Councils 'flout law' over aged care costs

BY GLENDA COOPER

Social Affairs Correspondent

ELDERLY PEOPLE are being made to use up their savings to pay for places in care homes by councils who are flouting the law, a charity claimed today.

Help the Aged has received over 2,000 calls on its helpline from people all over England and Wales who said their local authorities were making them pay up because of shortage of funds.

Others who called the line said that they were having their funding delayed because councils were pleading poverty.

The charity said that vulnerable old people were being left stranded in unsuitable care for months on end or were using their own savings to pay for care.

This was despite an Appeal Court ruling last year which said local authorities had a duty to pay for care once an elderly person's savings fell below £16,000.

It followed a case against Sefton local authority which was forcing old people to use savings to pay for care because the council lacked funds.

Among the complaints, one woman said she was told she would have to use her savings because "there was no money in the budget". Another said she had been forced to stay in hospital for nine months.

Gail Elkington, the charity's policy officer, said: "Councils cannot go on blatantly ignoring the law. The poor treatment of older people at a very difficult time in their lives is entirely unacceptable - we must find a way of forcing councils to abide by the law."

The charity is urging the Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, to step in and force local authorities to abide by the judgment. It believes that despite new legislation - the Community Care Act - coming into force on 1 August, little will change.

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1,000 feared dead as underwater quake sends three giant waves smashing into Papua New Guinea villages

'So many bodies that I could hardly move my boat through the lagoon'

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

RESCUERS were last night searching through dense tropical jungle for survivors of a tidal wave that smashed over the northern coast of Papua New Guinea, killing up to 1,000 people and obliterating three villages.

At least three tidal waves, or tsunamis, hit the coast near the village of Aitape on Friday night after an earthquake under the sea near by, striking villagers with horrifying force in one of the world's most inaccessible locations.

Survivors say that first their homes trembled as an earthquake shook the seabed just after midnight. Then they heard a roar like a jet landing. The three waves, the last and largest estimated at 10 metres (30 feet) high, swept men, women and children into the sea, with the palm fronds and tin sheeting of their homes.

By yesterday 600 people were confirmed dead, and up to 5,000 were injured or homeless. The waves swept two kilometres inland, devastating villages and hamlets and drowning people in their wake. Rescue workers confirmed last night that the death-toll was expected to be at least 1,000.

Paul Saroya, a survivor from the village of Nimas, said: "I was right near the village next to the coastline when the waves hit. Ten minutes after the earthquake, we heard a loud bang and then we saw the sea rising up and it started moving towards the village. We had no choice but to run for our lives."

A fisherman, Jerry Apuan, said yesterday morning that he was unable to count the number of bodies floating in a lagoon near one of the villages hardest hit by the wave.

"There were so many bodies together I had to move the boat slowly to pass through them," he said. "I was afraid. It was the first time I had seen so many bodies."

The earthquake, measured at a magnitude of seven on the Richter Scale at seismological stations in the South Pacific, erupted under the seabed so close to the Papua New Guinea coast that there was no time to send warnings to villagers to evacuate.

Father Austen Crapp, an Australian missionary at Aitape, said: "The wave hit in no time at all. It was dark. They were tumbled over and over with all the debris and iron and whatever. There was terrible confusion. They were washed one way and then the water turned around and went back again, just as fast."

Many of the dead were children who were washed into lagoons between the palm-fringed shore and the ocean. Dickson Dalle, a Papua New Guinean district disaster co-ordinator, said: "We have assumed the schools at all the nearby villages will be closed, because we don't have any children. They're all dead."

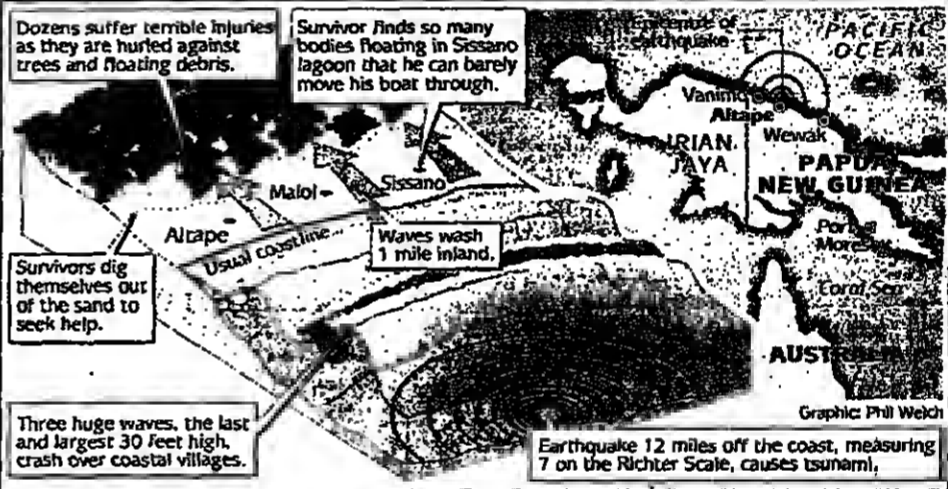
Rescuers last night were still retrieving bodies from lagoons, mangrove swamps and under sand. At least 2,000 people were thought to have fled into the jungle, and it is not known at this stage how many of those have survived.

For the known survivors, the injuries from the catastrophe were horrific. Hundreds have broken arms, legs, backs and pelvises, and many were left with pieces of wood driven into their bodies. The Catholic mission at Aitape was overwhelmed yesterday treating survivors, but was reported to have enough



A villager grieves (top); and a victim is carried away in one of the devastated settlements. Some of the survivors (right) were evacuated by helicopter. AP/Reuters

SWAMPED BY TIDAL WAVES



THE THREAT OF TIDAL WAVES

A TSUNAMI is the result of an earthquake beneath the ocean bed. In the ocean, the wave, which can travel at speeds of up to 500mph, is barely perceptible, but as it reaches shallower water it rapidly increases in height.

The Japanese fear a tsunami almost more than they fear an earthquake on land, and with good reason. In July 1993 almost 300 people died after an earthquake sent a tsunami over Okushiri Island in the Sea of Japan. It was the worst earthquake to hit Japan since 1948 and from the evidence it left behind—seaweed on the top of telephone poles—scientists were able to estimate that in some places the wave was 100 feet (30 metres) high.

Survivors then spoke of how they heard the eerie booming sound of the approaching tsunami—just like those who heard it in Papua New Guinea on Friday night. Others recalled the horrifying sight of "a mountain suddenly rising from the sea in the dark".

The Los Angeles earthquake in 1994 sent a shiver of fear down Japanese spines. Japan lies at the junction of two tectonic plates and is rocked every year by a tenth of the world's big quakes. Many feared that the California quake would trigger a tsunami that would cross the Pacific like a wall of water and submerge them.

In December 1992 hundreds of people died after an earthquake in Indonesia which wiped out whole villages with an 80ft tsunami which swept as far as 1,000 feet inland.

Neil Wells, a physical oceanographer at the Southampton Oceanographic Institute, said: "The wave is generated by a seismic tremor in the seabed and, strictly speaking, should not be called a tidal wave, which is driven by the moon."

injured people for every one dead person.

The coast was still shaking yesterday, adding to the panic and confusion among survivors. Many fled as fresh tremors struck.

Bridges near Aitape were destroyed and airstrips badly damaged, making the task of landing the Australian supply aircraft hazardous.

Rescuers are hoping to evacuate most of the survivors today to Wewak, the nearest big coastal town, 160km east of Aitape.

The tidal wave was one of Papua New Guinea's worst natural disasters. In 1994, a volcanic eruption on the island of New Britain, east of where the tidal wave struck, obliterated the town of Rabaul.

Last year villagers in Papua New Guinea's normally lush highlands were reduced to starvation by crop failures in a drought caused by El Niño.

Car bomb attempt mars West Bank peace talks

A PREMATURE explosion prevented a car bomb attack in central Jerusalem yesterday, hours before senior Israeli and Palestinian leaders were due to meet in the first face-to-face talks for 16 months to discuss an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The young Palestinian driver of a white van was badly burned yesterday morning after his vehicle burst into flames as he drove down Jaffa Road in the centre of the city.

"It has been very definitely

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Jerusalem

established it was a car bomb," said Yair Yitzhaki, the police chief for Jerusalem.

It is not clear who is behind the bomb. The most obvious candidate is Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, but there have been no other signs that Hamas was about to resume its bombing campaign. Police were yesterday waiting to interview the driver.

A motive for the bombing

might have been the disruption of talks between Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, and Abu Mazen, a senior lieutenant of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, which were due to start yesterday evening in a hotel in Tel Aviv.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said: "You saw we had a bomb in the centre of Jerusalem, and therefore you can understand why we insist the Palestinians carry out their responsibilities, first of all in fighting terrorism."

Kosovo clash

BY DOUGLAS HAMILTON
in Pristina

YUGOSLAV SECURITY forces killed at least 20 Kosovo Albanian guerrillas in a border ambush yesterday, and began to drive the separatist attackers from the south-west town of Orahovica, according to official Serb sources.

Unofficial Serb informants said the death toll was much higher than the 20 reported as the Albanians fled, dropping weapons destined for the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The fighting occurred on the Kosovo-Albanian border

near Djeravica, where the army reported killing 30 KLA men in a similar ambush on Saturday.

According to the Tanjug news agency, the Yugoslav government has protested to Britain over the activities of British aid worker Sally Becker, who was jailed for 30 days in Djakovica for trying to smuggle Kosovo Albanian refugees across the border into Albania proper.

Ms Becker, 37, allegedly entered Kosovo illegally from Albania and was captured trying to return on Friday with a woman and her two children.

Surgeon claims Castro was treated for brain condition

THE CUBAN President, Fidel Castro, was treated for a serious brain condition last October, according to a Cuban surgeon who says she was part of the medical team that treated him.

In an exclusive report in Miami's Spanish-language *El Nuevo Herald* newspaper, Dr Elizabeth Trujillo said she detected from Cuba in April this year and was later the target of a kidnapping attempt in Costa Rica, which she believed was carried out by Cuban agents.

Interviewed at a secret lo-

BY PHIL DAVISON
in Miami

cation in Costa Rica, Dr Trujillo said Mr Castro, who has always kept the state of his health secret, had been rushed to Havana's Centre for Medical and Surgical Research last October with symptoms of hypertensive encephalopathy.

The illness begins with a surge in blood pressure that often leads to a stroke and partial paralysis and can be fatal. The surgeon, whose story

has not been confirmed by any other source, said the medical team sedated him heavily, "almost to a state of coma".

She said she and the rest of the team were not allowed to leave the hospital, where Mr Castro was sealed off by security officers until he was discharged on 28 October.

The surgeon said she detected from Cuba in April, and on 20 June, in Costa Rica, a car pulled up and three men tried to drag her inside, she said. Her shouts forced the men to flee.

US Army lightens up on adultery

WITH SEX in the military still a fiercely contentious issue in the United States, the Pentagon is considering a more indulgent line on adultery that would bring military rules more into line with the civilian world.

The proposal comes from a committee appointed by the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, a year ago, amid allegations that the rank and file were treated more severely than officers over adultery.

According to the *New York Times*, the committee has

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

proposed changes to the military's judicial 'bible', the *Manual for Courts Martial*, that would result in fewer prosecutions and lighter punishment for those convicted. Adultery would only be prosecuted if it were found to have disrupted the morale of a military unit. Prosecution would also be discouraged for affairs that took place long in the past.

Adultery would remain a

crime in the military justice code - as it remains a crime on the books of many US States - but the occasions on which it becomes an indictable offence would be more narrowly defined. The most serious punishment for non-commissioned personnel would be a bad-conduct discharge, rather than the dishonourable discharge that is standard at present and removes all pension benefits.

While the proposed rule change could clarify an issue

that has caused much resentment in the armed forces ever since most basic training and career positions were opened to women, it is reported to be strenuously opposed by some senior officers.

Opposition is strongest in the Marines, the one corps to have resisted mixed-sex training. The *New York Times* quoted one officer as saying: "A lot of people feel this sends the wrong signal."

Quite apart from opposition from inside the military on

disciplinary grounds, a change would be bound to stir new controversies. The most immediate would be challenges from aggrieved individuals punished under the old rules. They include officers like Kelly Finn, the first woman B-52 bomber pilot, who was given a dishonourable discharge from the Air Force after admitting lying about an affair with a civilian who was the estranged husband of a junior colleague.

Another would be General Joseph Ralston, who lost his

chance to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US armed forces last year after details surfaced of a 20-year-old adulterous affair.

Any rule change would also tend to bear out the claims of lower-ranking officers that, at least until some of their number cried foul last year, a double standard prevailed. The rules are only being changed, some will argue, because senior officers are now being caught.

The Kelly Finn affair contributed directly to the non-

promotion of General Ralston, as his nomination appeared to support the view of Finn and her supporters that the top brass broke the rules with impunity, obtaining at worst an honourable discharge with full retirement benefits. Earlier this year, a former senior US officer serving with Nato in Turkey was granted honourable retirement even though he was under investigation for adultery - and blackmail. The preliminary investigation has spawned a

criminal investigation inside the military, but no announcement has been made and no action has been taken against the officer.

While courts martial for adultery form only a tiny proportion of military prosecutions in the US (39 out of 969 in 1997), the disruption from sex charges - because of their disciplinary, and now political, implications - is much greater than the number would suggest, and many cases are never brought to court anyway.

Gore sets out on White House trail

WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON enjoying a bucolic and ego-soothing weekend in his home state of Arkansas, Vice-President Al Gore was busy at work. He went to New York to open the Goodwill Games in one of those high-profile, presidential appearances that say: authority, power and - in Mr Gore's case - hail, the next chief!

The mid-term congressional elections may be only four months away, but Al Gore's eyes are on the longer term: the date, two years and four months hence, when he hopes to be elected Bill Clinton's successor in the White House. To get there, he has two battles to fight: the first for the Democratic nomination, which is currently seen as his to lose, thanks to the support of his friend, Mr Clinton; the second is for the presidency.

The danger for Mr Gore is that polls indicate he could well lose against a strong Republican candidate. This in turn would jeopardise his chances of the Democratic nomination. So, in a clear move to pre-empt these unhappy possibilities, Al Gore is already campaigning. Anyone who doubts his intentions need only look at his diary for this weekend. Before going to New York, Mr Gore - in the space of 36 hours - made time to address three key ethnic constituencies. He went to Atlanta to address the biggest black organ-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

isation, the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the NAACP, and offered large new subsidies to black-owned businesses and, for good measure, a statue of Martin Luther King to be erected in the National Mall in Washington. He then went to Congress to meet Hispanic members of the legislature.

That afternoon, he went to a hotel in north-west Washington to give an address to the Organisation of Chinese Americans (OCA). At just 3 per cent of the population, Chinese Americans are a small ethnic minority, but - as the campaign finance scandal from the last election proved - one that increasingly has clout.

Mr Gore's address to the Chinese was a tour de force of campaigning in which he totally ignored the coming congressional elections and focused entirely on himself and the presidency. The first half of what he had to say was a succession of comedian's patter: jokes, anecdotes and allusions. He congratulated the current OCA president as living proof that a vice-president can become president. "Don't ever underestimate the significance of vice-presidents," he said, before congratulating the OCA on proving that "the system works".

He quipped about the advantages of the vice-presidency, one of which he said was the vice-presidential seal which "if you turn your head and look at it in the sunlight out of the corner of your eye, says president".

Then he told an anecdote against himself, and his reputation for public woodenness, about Oscar night. He and his wife, Tipper, he said, were in bed, watching the Oscar ceremony and heard the compere, Billy Crystal, joke early on that no one knew who would win. "The only person who's guaranteed to wake up tomorrow morning with a statue is Tipper Gore," he quoted Mr Crystal as saying. "Well, well, could you believe it," said Mr Gore to howls of laughter.

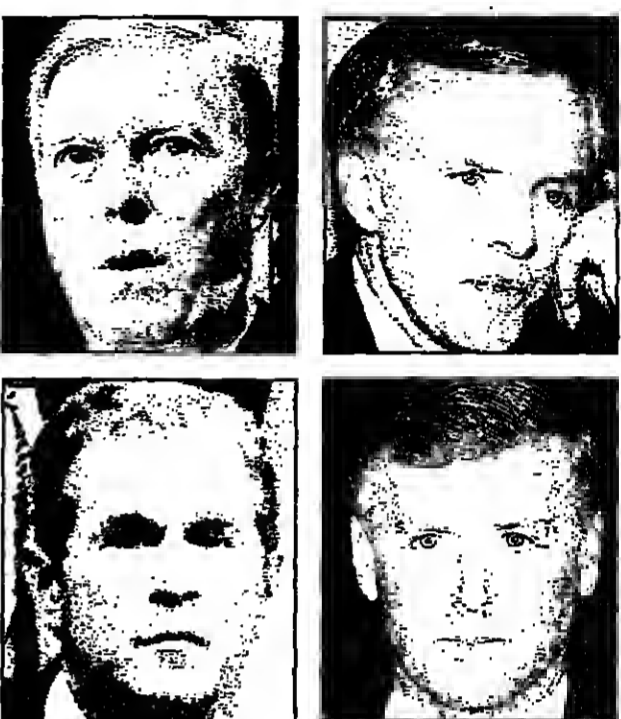
His policy pronouncements, however, left little trace, compared with the jokes, and may well turn out to be a liability for Al Gore's campaign. And despite the early and finely targeted start to his unannounced campaign, his path to the presidency is not looking nearly as smooth as he and his supporters would like.

Although his friend, Bill Clinton, is being generous itself in giving him high-profile feel-good occasions for his solo appearances, they have a habit of going wrong. Even the Goodwill Games are far from the sell-out the organisers expected.



Vice-President Al Gore speaking to the NAACP on Thursday

Ric Feld/AP



Presidential hopefuls keep their powder dry

STANDING IN the wings as Mr Gore starts on the White House trail are a clutch of hopefuls. Many will quickly fall by the wayside. His main rivals at the moment are, among the Democrats, the anti-free trader and leader of the party in the House of Representatives, Dick Gephardt (top left); and the telegraphic senator, Bob Kerry, of Nebraska (top right). Standing strongly in the Republican wings, though unannounced and reportedly undecided, is George W. Bush (bottom left), son of the former president, and the anti-tobacco senator, John

McCain. To the terror of Gore supporters, Mr Bush recently rated ahead in an opinion poll of voting intentions if it were a Gore-Bush contest for the presidency in 2000.

Another man with vice-presidential experience is gathering conservative support. Dan Quayle (bottom right), who will always be remembered for his spelling difficulties, is coming up on the right. "I'll tell you," he said on television recently, "I'll let all the perfect spellers support Al Gore and those who have trouble spelling should support me."

Two decades on, a woman seeks her 'stillborn' child

TWENTY-THREE years ago, Janet Johnson was told that her baby had been born stillborn. This week, police in Murray, Utah, will investigate whether that was the case or if something altogether more sinister happened back in April 1975.

Janet Colton, as she was then, was rushed to American Fork Community Hospital with labour pains. But complications developed and she was taken to Cottonwood Hospital, where she was told the baby was stillborn and given a general anaesthetic.

When she awoke she asked to see the baby, and though the hospital staff objected she was allowed to look at the child for a few moments. The hospital wanted to bury the baby, named William Edward Colton, but she insisted on making the arrangements herself.

Twenty years later she saw a television programme about women who believed stillborn children had been substituted for their own healthy babies. It followed a news report about a woman whose baby had been

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Salt Lake City

taken and sold. "I had never ever questioned the death of that baby," Mrs Johnson told the *Salt Lake City Tribune*. "Then I heard those other mothers talking."

She obtained a copy of the baby's death certificate, and to her surprise another name had been erased and her own child's substituted. Then she took a difficult decision: the body was exhumed and its DNA tested against hers. The laboratory said there was no match. The baby who had been buried was not hers.

She turned over the investigation to Murray Police, who examined it very carefully. "We took the case because it is clear that she is not a crackpot," Sergeant Gerry Christensen of Murray Police told *The Independent*. "She had everything laid out for us."

They checked the hospital mortuary records, and it seems there had been no accidental mix up. The last incidence of a

stillborn child had been six full days before.

The hospital insists there has been no conspiracy, and it questions the DNA testing method. Its own records show that all of the nurses, doctors and anaesthetists who handled the case said that the baby was stillborn. The delivery was unexpected, which it says also argues against a conspiracy. And it was common practice at the time for the hospital to withhold the baby's body from the mother and cremate it. These days, in an effort to help women accept the loss, that has changed.

But the police have asked both the hospital and Mrs Johnson's former doctor, Jack Batchler, to give evidence. "We've got several doctors we've got to interview," said Sergeant Christensen. "They can't remember. They have delivered a lot of babies."

He says there are two questions which need answering: whether the baby had a heartbeat when Mrs Johnson was taken to hospital (the hospital

says it did not), and why she was taken to Cottonwood when there was a closer hospital with the same facilities.

Whatever the results of the investigation, the case shows yet again how DNA testing has re-opened the past. Sometimes it settles old mysteries and sometimes it creates new ones.

It is only weeks since the Pentagon discovered that even the body in America's equivalent of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior from the Vietnam war could be identified. Hardly a month goes past without another long-closed death being re-investigated.

Mrs Johnson, who had five pregnancies before the birth in question - none with any complications - is intent on pressing ahead to discover the truth. She believes firmly that the stillborn child in the hospital mortuary was substituted for her own baby, and that somewhere she has a 23-year-old child. "I just want to find my child," she told the *Tribune*. "I don't even know if it's a girl or a boy."

NY police in brothel scandal

POLICE OFFICERS and prostitutes in New York were embroiled in a scandal about their mutual relations yesterday, but the city's mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, said he would not prejudice the senior commanders who failed to blow the whistle.

"I never exclude the possibility of a reasonable explanation," Mr Giuliani said.

Several top department officials formerly served the Midtown South precinct, where investigators say police allowed a brothel to operate while officers had sex with prostitutes at a nearby apartment during working hours.

Investigators say the practice apparently went on for at least 15 years.

BY RICHARD PYLE

Nineteen officers, a sergeant and a lieutenant were put on restricted duty and the precinct's two top commanders were transferred. Police Commissioner Howard Safir said only the 19 officers were suspected of having sex with prostitutes.

The Midtown South precinct encompasses many of central Manhattan's most famous areas, including Times Square, the theatre district and Madison Square Garden.

While no charges have been filed, Mr Giuliani stressed that the city's latest police corruption inquiry was far from over and said former senior officers at Midtown South had some ex-

plaining to do. "If they did know about it, obviously that's very serious, and if they didn't know about it, that has implications also," he said.

The *New York Post* said these officers included William Albee, the department's chief of detectives. Transit Chief George Brown and Manhattan Deputy Chief Michael Fox.

Officer Carmen Melendez, a department spokeswoman, said she could not confirm that the officers named were formerly at Midtown South.

Asked whether he could visualise a valid explanation for top officers not knowing of the activity, or knowing and failing to act, Mr Giuliani recalled his own days as a US Attorney. "I

used to do this work myself, and you always begin with a cynical attitude, and that's the only way to investigate," he said.

"You have to investigate from the point of view that if this was going on, why didn't someone know about it?"

Investigators found that the apartment used by the police, just across the road from the brothel, was owned by the madam who ran it. She allowed police officers to use the apartment for sex with prostitutes, rather than mingle with other customers, the *New York Times* reported.

The illegal activity ended about a year ago, possibly when the officers learned of the investigation.

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China's secret democrats call Peking's bluff

CHINA'S LEADERS are facing a long, hot summer wrestling with economic problems while trying to contain an emerging dissident community seemingly emboldened by the recent visit of President Bill Clinton.

Last night six members of the prototype Chinese Democracy Party remained in detention in a case which is drawing attention to the government's opposition to any independent political organisation. Social stability is the priority for Peking over the next few months, and China's leaders are in no mood to permit any overt challenge to Communist Party authority, as recent detentions well demonstrate.

Figures just announced showed that in the second quarter of this year China's economy expanded at the slowest rate for seven years, with GDP growth slipping to 6.8 per cent, well below the double-digit boom of recent years and falling short of this year's annual target of 8 per cent.

Foreign investment was down, and exports have been hit by the crisis elsewhere in Asia. Millions of mainland state workers are being thrown out of work as industry is restructured, and Peking does not want any independent organisation to provide a focus for their discontent.

However, China's re-emerging dissident community is operating at its own pace. The founder members of the Chinese Democracy Party chose 25 June, the day of Mr Clinton's arrival in China, to try formally to register the organisation in the eastern city of Hangzhou.

Since then, 11 members have been detained, of whom five were subsequently released. Among those still being held is Wang Youcai, one of China's most active remaining pro-democracy figures.

By trying legally to set up a political organisation the dissidents are calling the bluff of China's leaders, who claim that the country is doing everything

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

it can to promote the rule of law. Most worrying for the Peking leadership is the way that dissidents appear to have set up channels of communication between themselves. This was most evident just before Mr Clinton's arrival in China, when two open letters emerged, calling on the US president to meet activists.

These networks have resulted in a letter in the name of 100 dissidents calling on President Jiang Zemin and the Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, to release the Chinese Democra-



President Jiang Zemin

cy Party activists still in detention.

The mode of the letter's appearance leaves it unclear how much direct contact there was between the activists, who are spread across 19 provinces.

The letter, like much of the information on the new organisation and other dissident arrests, was released by a Hong Kong-based human-rights group, the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

The group said that the 100 dissidents had "asked us to release an open letter... on their behalf".

The group said that those detained face charges of harming state security, which carried a

minimum penalty of 10 years in jail. The men still in custody are Wang Youcai, Wang Donghai, Zhu Yufu, Zhu Zhengming, Lin Hui and Mao Guoliang.

The dissidents pointed out that China has promised to sign the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees the right of peaceful political expression.

They also took issue with the Foreign Ministry spokesman's description of the dissidents as "criminals". Tang Guoqing said last week: "We have noticed some people in foreign countries often mention China's so-called dissidents. Investigations show that these people are mostly criminals violating China's laws."

A veteran mainland human-rights campaigner, Li Bifeng, who is not a member of the Chinese Democracy Party, has just been accused of criminal activities, in what may be a sign of new tactics for dealing with dissidents. Mr Li, who was detained in March, has been charged with economic fraud, and may go on trial by the end of this month. His real crime in the eyes of the government was allegedly to inform overseas human-rights groups about labour unrest in Sichuan province. Another veteran activist, Fan Yiping, is due to be sentenced in the southern city of Guangzhou tomorrow for helping another dissident flee China, the Hong Kong group said.

Such actions will do much to tarnish the more open image which China presented to the world during the Clinton visit.

But China's main concern is keeping the lid on social unrest while it pushes through economic reforms and attempts to kick-start the economy with massive infrastructure investment.

Peking is terrified that the millions of disgruntled unemployed workers could provide a ready platform of support for any groups allowed to challenge one-party rule.



A team competing yesterday for the title of King of the Lion in the finals of the 1998 World Lion Dance Championship in Pahang, Malaysia

Sighs of relief as Mandela and wife step out at last

BY MARY BRAID
in Johannesburg

AS PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel made their first public appearance as husband and wife last night, at a glittering banquet to celebrate the President's 80th birthday, there was a wave of relief among his aides. The time for economy with the truth was over.

Almost until the moment the couple exchanged rings on Saturday, political spokesmen were categorically denying a wedding would take place. Even Charlton Bashe, the chief magistrate of Johannesburg, dismissed the rumours. Mr Bashe, it emerged yesterday, conducted the civil ceremony for the President and Mrs Machel, just the day before the religious celebrations.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who officiated over Saturday's ceremony, was - praise the Lord - not required to fudge.

"We tried to speak to Tutu at the end of last week," revealed a journalist at the Johannesburg Star newspaper, which broke the wedding story on Thursday. "But we were told he had gone into (religious) retreat until the weekend. That was when we knew it was true. Tutu could never lie to your face."

Yesterday, South African journalists, friends and political associates, who previously considered themselves close to Madiba (Mr Mandela's clan name), were humbly reassessing. So effective was the secrecy campaign that very few knew what was happening, until it did.

It is not clear, even, if Zizi and Zenani, Mr Mandela's daughters by his second wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, knew in advance.

Guests at a private birthday party for Madiba in Pretoria on Saturday afternoon said the daughters and other relatives were called into a side room. They surprised their guests by emerging minutes later singing the wedding song "Thina Sobabini Sovumelana" (We together have agreed to be together). Zizi and Zenani

were not present at the small wedding service which followed at the President's home in Houghton, Johannesburg.

Yesterday South Africans were generally delighted to see Mr Mandela happy. Most have been tickled by the late-in-life love affair which the President said recently had made him "bloom again like a flower". He, she says, is "so easy to love".

Mrs Machel, 52, is the widow of Mozambique's founding president, Samora Machel, who died in a plane crash in 1986, allegedly caused by the apartheid regime in South Africa. The relationship, she says, has brought together two lonely people who never expected to find love again.

Church leaders, including Archbishop Tutu, had begged the couple not to live in sin. But the President had to work hard to persuade Mrs Machel to marry. She was anxious to retain her first husband's name and the links with her country.

Mrs Madikizela-Mandela, whom the President divorced in 1996 on the grounds that she had been unfaithful, seemed among the few party poopers. According to the South African Sunday Times Mrs Madikizela-Mandela hung up and turned off her mobile phone when asked to comment. Neither did the President's first wife, Evelyn, whom he divorced in 1957, have anything to say on the matter.

And Thelodumo Mthara, chief of the Thembu tribe, to which the President belongs, said he would challenge Mr Mandela over his failure to inform the clan of his plans.

The newly weds stayed indoors yesterday, only emerging for the banquet which launches a year of 80th-birthday events, the proceeds from which will go to the President's Children's Fund. Around 500 guests paid up to \$12,000 to attend, while 1,500 more were invited. Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Naomi Campbell were expected. The latest rumour - which, of course, presidential aides refuse to confirm or deny - is that Mr Mandela will record a rap song for a birthday CD.

Victims of a starving Tiger

CITY LIFE
JAKARTA



Beggars in Glodok, Jakarta's devastated Chinatown

IT IS MIDNIGHT on a dusty side street off the main artery of Indonesia's capital, and a frail woman kneels on the pavement, picking through rubbish left over from the food stalls nearby. "Cari makanan" - searching for food - the voice calls up to me, before fading back into the rustling of plastic bags, satay sticks and broken bottles.

It reflects a new desperation in this city of 11 million. The jubilant mood surrounding the ousting of President Suharto amidst street riots eight weeks ago seems to have disappeared as Jakartans contend with a harsh new reality. South-East Asia's economic crisis, which began a year ago, hit hardest in Indonesia, and shows few signs of letting up.

Every Indonesian, from the proud bureaucrat to the humblest rickshaw driver, is familiar with the term *Krisis Moneter* - monetary crisis, though few can explain its magnitude or its seemingly relentless nature. The country's currency, the rupiah, has lost over 80 per cent of its value, unemployment is rampant and rising, and each day thousands plunge beneath the poverty line.

Across the road, Nursia, 48, packs up her cake stall after a day of noo-trading. "No one is buying any more," she says with defeat. "On very slow days, I borrow money from other vendors to cover my costs." Originally from the island of Sulawesi, she was orphaned at age seven and came to Jakarta to start a new life. She has been content selling cakes for the past eight years but lately things have gone terribly wrong.

"It's all because of KKN," Nursia says, referring to the popularised acronym for *Korupsi, Kolusi and Nepotisme* (corruption, collusion and nepotism). "In Indonesia, *Korupsi* is number one, and honesty is last. *Korupsi* starts with our village headman and runs right up to the top. They take care of their own needs."

but three of her children are no longer in school because she cannot afford the fees. Her family of eight share a one-room flat. "We used to eat beefsteak and hearty salads," she says, "but now we get by on plain rice and coconut."

Nursia feels helpless. "Will it get better? This is Allah's secret! We don't need President Habibie, or any other president. We need honesty, only honesty, and lower prices. There are no honest people in this place, other than Muhammad and his Master!"

Across town stands Mall Taman Anggrek, Jakarta's largest and most luxurious shopping complex. It seems a world apart from the alleyway where Nursia sells her cakes, but *Krisis Moneter* has also infiltrated this bastion of consumerism, constructed in better times, before Indonesia's boom turned to bust.

Agustinus Mami slopes idly in the chair at his desk in a top-end furniture shop on the mall's fifth floor. When asked about the crisis, the manner of this young but clearly frustrated salesman turns quickly from soft-spoken to outspoken. "I still have a job, but millions don't," says Agustinus, who earns the equivalent of £17 a month.

"At first they stay home and watch football, but then they get fed up. If the government doesn't find a way out, there will be a war here, between



rich and poor. And why haven't they found a way out? Because there are still people at the top who are enjoying life a bit too much," he says indignantly. "They have power and they own conglomerates. They don't feel the misery."

Agustinus stares blankly at the shop's vast displays, for which there have been no buyers in more than three days. "President Suharto is gone but the Suharto system has spread to every area of life and it is hard to wipe the slate clean. We are supposed to be a very rich country," he says. "We have every kind of natural resource: in the ocean, the forest, the earth. Where did all that wealth go? I read that an economist from the Philippines claims that Indonesia could live prosperously from the sea alone."

"But once the rich and powerful each claim their share, nothing is left for the common people. They don't care about us. If I lose my job,

I'll devote my time to the people's struggle."

Glodok, Jakarta's Chinatown, is in the north of the city. Although we are alone in her chemist shop, Heni, 54, speaks in an urgent whisper. Her paranoia is not surprising: two months ago she was surrounded here by burning buildings and racial attacks in the riots preceding Mr Suharto's downfall. "It is a miracle my shop is still here," she says tensely, then points to the charred remnants of neighbouring shops. "We closed the shop and locked ourselves upstairs for five days. We heard the mobs screaming outside. They wanted us because we are Orung Cina - Chinese. My family has been in Indonesia for four generations, but... now I know I will always be a stranger here."

"It was horrible. They began entering shops and houses. They were like animals. I don't want to talk about what they did. I am still so afraid." At least 1,100 people died in the May riots, which often targeted Indonesia's small but commercially influential Chinese minority.

"Life is supposedly back to normal. But it will never be the same. Look at the people outside," Heni says. "We are still in a state of trauma. Many people do not leave their houses. Not even to the market. Business in my shop has dropped to half. There is much despair now."

Despair is fast becoming the official government line as well. At a press meeting last week the head of Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics, Suwito Sugito, announced with unprecedented candour that 40 per cent of Indonesia's population, nearly 80 million people, are living below the poverty line. Mr Sugito did little to hide his frustration.

"Some time ago we were told by experts that we were a candidate to become another Asian tiger, like Thailand and Malaysia. Now we are not even a cat."

DANIEL ZIV

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News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Alzheimer's drug trial promising

SHIRE PHARMACEUTICALS said at the weekend that early trials of its new drug, Galantamine, showed a positive effect on sufferers of Alzheimer's disease. The treatment is capable of slowing the deterioration of memory and learning skills or even reversing it in patients with a mild form of the disease, according to findings presented at an international conference on Alzheimer's in Amsterdam.

The company said that Phase 3 - "double blind" placebo-controlled trials - among 636 patients in the US showed that patients taking Galantamine scored 3.7 to 3.8 points higher in cognitive tests than their placebo-taking fellow testers.

Biotech under a cloud, page 17

Financial regulators 'too costly'

THE Financial Services Authority (headed by Howard Davies, left) and other financial regulators should be scrapped and replaced with a lighter, cheaper regulatory system, a US academic has advocated.

Professor George Benston, of Emory University in Atlanta, argues that financial regulators such as the FSA are costly to consumers and taxpayers. In a publication for the Institute of Economic Affairs, the free-market think-tank, Professor Benston argues for a regulatory system based on substantial capital requirements, systems allowing authorities to intervene quickly if anything goes wrong, and an Ombudsman who could handle complaints from mistreated consumers.

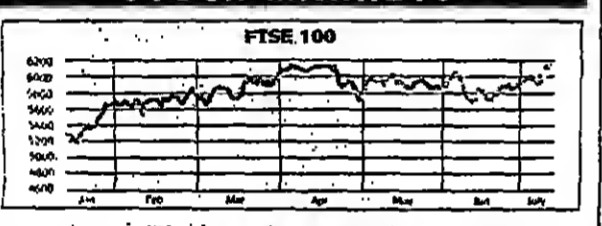
Costs threaten fund group profits

FUND MANAGEMENT groups are failing to keep control of their costs, raising fears that profits could be wiped out if the stock market takes a downturn. One in five fund management groups would plunge into the red if the stock market fell by just 10 per cent from today's high, an annual survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the newly-merged accountancy group, suggests.

Nationwide ballot deadline today

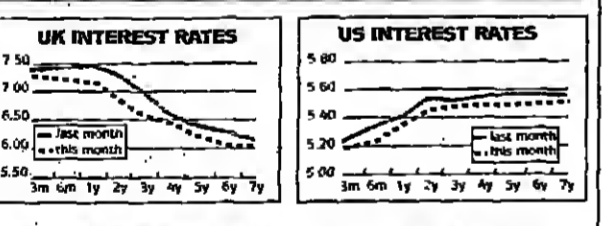
ABOUT 2.5m members of the Nationwide, which is facing calls to turn itself into a bank, have until the end of today to vote on proposals that the building society demutualise itself and distribute shares among its members. The result will be announced on Thursday.

STOCK MARKETS



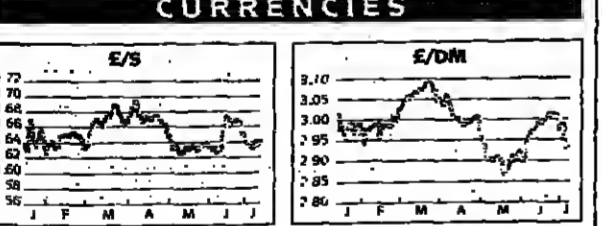
Index	Close	High	Low	Open	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	4474.00	4480.00	4460.00	4470.00	4580.00	4320.00	3,728
FTSE 250	2703.70	2710.00	2690.00	2700.00	2750.00	2650.00	3,526
FTSE 350	2955.10	2960.00	2940.00	2950.00	3000.00	2850.00	3,592
FTSE All Share	2892.73	2900.00	2880.00	2890.00	2940.00	2790.00	3,666
FTSE SmallCap	2589.40	2595.00	2580.00	2585.00	2630.00	2530.00	3,241
FTSE 100 Div	1216.80	1220.00	1210.00	1215.00	1225.00	1205.00	3,379
FTSE AIM	1089.20	1095.00	1080.00	1085.00	1100.00	1070.00	1,188
FTSE ETRAC 100	1121.06	1125.00	1115.00	1120.00	1130.00	1110.00	1,367
Dow Jones	9337.98	9350.00	9320.00	9330.00	9400.00	9200.00	1,367
Nikkei	16370.78	16400.00	16300.00	16350.00	16500.00	16100.00	0.921
Hang Seng	5628.93	5650.00	5600.00	5620.00	5700.00	5500.00	4.744
Dax	6147.87	6160.00	6130.00	6140.00	6200.00	6050.00	2.632

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	-1.47
US	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.69	-0.75
Japan	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	-0.75
Germany	3.54	3.54	3.54	3.54	3.54	-1.06

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	High	Low	Open	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
Dollar	1.6429	1.6450	1.6400	1.6430	1.6550	1.5750	3,598
Yen	229.38	230.00	228.00	229.50	235.00	219.00	1,794
£ index	104.60	105.00	104.00	104.70	106.00	103.00	1,030

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	High	Low	Open	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
Brent Oil (\$)	12.05	12.10	11.90	12.00	12.50	11.50	18.49
Gold (\$)	294.50	295.00	294.00	294.50	300.00	285.00	3,728
Silver (\$)	5.29	5.30	5.20	5.25	5.50	5.00	4.72

Source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4988	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.16
Austria (schillings)	19.89	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1901
Belgium (francs)	58.44	New Zealand (\$)	2.9710
Canada (\$)	2.3692	Norway (kroner)	12.01
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8285	Portugal (escudos)	288.36
Denmark (kroner)	10.86	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9752
Finland (markka)	8.7076	Singapore (\$)	2.6553
France (francs)	9.4961	Spain (pesetas)	240.00
Germany (marks)	2.8426	South Africa (rand)	9.9485
Greece (drachma)	471.32	Sweden (kroner)	12.65
Hong Kong (\$)	12.25	Switzerland (francs)	2.3987
Ireland (pounds)	1.1250	Thailand (bahts)	61.25
Israel (shekels)	5.5253	Turkey (liras)	422.81
Italy (lira)	2806	USA (\$)	1.5936
Japan (yen)	223.01		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4393		
Malta (lira)	0.6171		

Green targets 'endangered by energy reform'

THE GOVERNMENT'S reforms of the energy market will do nothing to boost demand for British coal while making it harder for Britain to meet its environmental obligations, a study published today warns.

Demand for coal will fall by a quarter by the end of the decade, yet Britain will still miss the target in reducing emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide it agreed at last December's Kyoto summit.

The study, by Cambridge Econometrics, says that the de facto ban on the building of further gas-fired power stations will have little effect on the generation market for three years because so much gas-fired capacity is already under construction.

In the absence of any deal to force the power generators to burn more coal, it forecasts that demand for coal will decline from 47 million tonnes last year to 35 million tonnes by 2000.

Despite the fall in coal burn, the study forecasts that Britain will miss its Kyoto targets by a wide margin. The UK made a unilateral commitment to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent from 1990 by 2010. But the study forecasts that they will have fallen by only 7 per cent.

Cambridge Econometrics also forecasts that Britain will only meet the Environment Agency's legally-binding target to reduce sulphur emissions by 79 per cent by 2001 if expensive flue-gas desulphurisation equipment is fitted at power stations. This, its says, would "substantially worsen the economics of running existing coal stations, compared with generation from a new combined cycle gas-fired station".

A report last week from the offshore industry forecast that the ban on gas-fired stations would cost 1,300 jobs and lose the Exchequer £1.8bn in taxes from the North Sea.

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

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UK 'needs 8.75% shock treatment'

THE BANK of England should give the UK economy a "short sharp shock" and immediately put up interest rates by 1.25 points to 8.75 per cent, according to an independent report published today.

In one of the most alarmist appraisals of the Chancellor's spending plans to date, the Ernst & Young Item Club, which uses the Treasury's own model to analyse the UK economy, says it will be "extremely difficult" for the Bank to counteract interest-rate cuts "in the foreseeable future".

According to the Item Club: "The Monetary Policy Committee has been nobbled by the one person who could have helped them. The Chancellor's higher public sector spending plans will support domestic activity and bolster the pound."

The Item Club warning came as the Confederation of British Industry claimed that the economy was now slowing at a "quite rapid pace".

Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, said there was a "severe" slowdown taking place in manufacturing and exports. "It's become quite clear to us that the situation has deteriorated significantly over the last couple of months," he said.

However, Mr Turner played down the Item Club prediction that unemployment might rise by 500,000. He said: "Certainly it's a very delicate point in the economic cycle, simply because

BY LEA PATERSON

hike in rates to 8.75 per cent.

Such a move, according to the Item Club, would not force the economy into recession, although growth would slow sharply next year to 0.75 per cent.

The only drawback of the "short sharp shock" treatment would be its implications for the PSBR, although the Item Club surmises that this would be "the Chancellor's problem" rather than the Bank's.

The Chancellor's new spending plans also came under attack in a separate study by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). Douglas McWilliams, the CEBR chief executive, predicted: "Our forecasts suggest that if Gordon Brown crosses his fingers and crosses his toes there is a reasonable possibility that tax receipts will rise in the way predicted, although it seems naive to plan one's spending on best-case assumptions."

His priorities for education and health are in line with the public mood. But if he wants to spend on them, he needs to be far tougher on welfare, defence, agriculture, the overfunding of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, legal aid and overseas aid."

Last week the Chancellor staunchly defended his spending plans, saying they were based on cautious and prudent economic forecasts.



The Item Club says Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and other members of the MPC have been 'nobbled' by Gordon Brown's spending plans

Middle market firms lose millions

BY ROGER TRAPP

COMPANIES in the middle market are losing millions of pounds a year through failing to manage their risks successfully - even though they recognise the contribution that risk management can make to delivering shareholder value, according to research published today by the accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Some companies admit to having lost up to a whole year's profit through unmanaged risk. None the less, nearly 90 per cent of organisations in this market - defined as having turnover of between £5m and £200m - are not even able to give a formal definition of what they believe business risk to be, says the firm's latest quarterly survey of the sector.

Richard Anderson, partner in the firm's strategic risk management practice, said that, while it appeared that 80 per cent of companies realised the importance of risk management, only a small minority saw the benefits in terms of growth and profits.

Moreover, pointing out that as many as 4 out of 10 companies admitted to experiencing losses as a result of unexpected, unmanaged risk, he added that the losses amounted in many cases to more than £100,000.

Seven per cent of the companies that admitted to suffering a risk-related loss estimated it to be in the region of £2m to £10m.

In certain cases, this accounted for 6 per cent of annual turnover, "effectively wiping out a year's profits".

Companies pick brains of staff facing redundancy

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

WITH A possible recession looming, blue-chip companies are "picking the brains" of key employees so that their expertise will not be lost if they make them redundant.

Businesses are keen to avoid the necessity of having to re-hire specialist staff at great expense when business conditions pick up again, so they are establishing internal networks to share know-how, according to an investigation of 128 organisations.

Some companies - such as ICL, NatWest Markets and Ernst & Young - have created a chief knowledge officer or knowledge director to ensure that the necessary electronic systems are available, and that vital information is "downloaded".

Professor Amin Rajan, who led the research, also believes the approach has the longer-term advantage of stimulating

LSE fires two after insider inquiry

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THE London Stock Exchange has sacked two employees on suspicion of using sensitive information on impending company announcements to deal in shares. However, it says the two were not part of a more widespread insider dealing ring.

The Department of Trade and Industry is investigating the case of suspected insider dealing, which involves a former LSE employee who worked in the office handling company news announcements.

The employee was sacked late last year on suspicion of passing sensitive financial information to a relative before it was posted on City dealing screens. Another employee was fired for not blowing the whistle on his colleague.

However, the Stock Exchange is adamant that the incident was an isolated one. At the time, it carried out a full review of security which included bringing in accountants Price Waterhouse to conduct an independent audit.

"The review was very fast, very thorough, and we are satisfied that there was nothing further to look at," a Stock Exchange spokeswoman said.

The case has been with the DTI for nine months. However, the Stock Exchange rejected reports that the DTI had widened the scope of its investigation to include other Stock Exchange employees or City stockbrokers.

It is understood that the two employees involved in the original case were junior clerks and that the sums involved in the matter were relatively small.

Bankruptcies follow Cup ticket fiasco

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THREE CORPORATE hospitality companies have gone bust owing millions of pounds in the World Cup ticket fiasco after failing to supply the seats they had promised to clients.

The companies were forced into liquidation as a result of their own ticket suppliers failing to deliver the tickets they were supposed to.

The companies - The Mall Corporate Events, International Championship Management (ICM) and Champion Cup Hospitality - had sold expensive corporate hospitality packages including tickets to a World Cup match to large companies. However, their plans went awry just before the World Cup opening ceremony when their suppliers failed to deliver the tickets they had promised.

The Mall and ICM then spent millions buying up tickets on the secondary market in an attempt to make up the shortfall. As the tournament progressed, however, the companies found that they could not afford the asking prices, which had risen to as much as £750 per ticket.

CCH had also ordered 400

tickets from a Danish supplier, for which it had paid in full before it had received them. The company had managed to recover £350,000 from the supplier before any tickets changed hands.

Malcolm Cohen, a partner of BDO Stoy Hayward, which has been appointed as joint liquidators of the three companies, said: "In this industry there is such a huge reliance on suppliers which, in the event of non-performance, will have a dramatic knock-on effect for their customers and a company's growth plans."

Half-hour delay intended to bring the rogues to book

IT IS perhaps fitting that blue chips should be riding at their peak as the stock market, to accommodate order-driven trading, reduces its opening hours.

From today the opening bell rings at 9am instead of 8.30am. The change is an attempt to bring stability to the order book, which has often misbehaved since it was introduced in October and was in a particularly erratic mood last week.

By opening the book 30 minutes later the Stock Exchange hopes to concentrate trading, offering more depth and tighter spreads. In the past the first half-hour has been a yawn, with very few orders punched in. By delaying the opening the Stock Exchange hopes the book will enjoy a more active start. If proceedings are merely pushed back 30 minutes, as some think will happen, it will be back to the drawing board.

Some see the move as another condemnation of an unsatisfactory trading method which is not entirely suitable for a market like London. It is not just the 125 shares - the 100 Footsie stocks, former constituents and those with futures links - which will be subjected to shorter trading; the entire market will not open its doors until 9am.

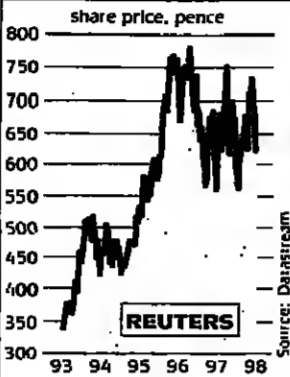
That should not mean an extra 30 minutes in bed for mar-

STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



ket men. Company announcements will still start to flow at 7.30am; morning meetings are not scheduled to start later, and other normal pre-market activity should go on as before. And private investors should

not delay by 30 minutes or so in contacting their stockbrokers. Orders should be put in as usual, although if they do not already do so they should put price limits on any deals.

There will still be a 4.30pm shutdown, with Life slightly extending its trading to accommodate the Stock Exchange's bid to try to resolve the problems of rogue - or just stupid - trades which are reducing the credibility of the market and the closing Footsie calculations.

On Thursday at least three Footsie constituents were the subject of what some like to call spaghetti-fingered (accidental or deliberately inaccurate) inputs. These, of course, make a modest impact on the closing Footsie sums, which may not matter much unless the calculation - or the individual share price - is needed for a valuation.

Last week's record-breaking Footsie performance was in sharp contrast to the rest of the market. Both mid and small cap shares put on indifferent displays and the two indices are, after a great run, looking tired.

Blue chips have shrugged off the Far Eastern crisis, higher interest rates and the strong pound in some style. Last year the charge was led by financials; this year it's telecoms.

Whether Footsie will be able

to ignore the coming slowdown - which could develop into a recession - and even higher interest rates remain to be seen.

What has wrong-footed many bears is that they underestimated the impact of the sheer weight of money and the dwindling pool of shares following share buybacks and cash take over bids.

The company news service will not be particularly active in the first week of reduced trading hours. Only a handful of groups have indicated their intention to produce profits announcements in the next five days. Three Footsie constituents are among them.

Today SmithKline Beecham, where takeover stories are never far away, should offer another sign of the impact of sterling's strength. Second-quarter sales growth, estimates Kevin Scotcher at BT Alex Brown, could have been cut to just 4 per cent from 10 per cent. Profits should be up around 6 per cent to £368m with, he believes, £1.72bn in sight for the year; last year's figure was £1.61bn.

Renters, the information group, has had a poor run ahead of its interim. They will, the market anticipates, be poor with the pound's high-flying performance again ravaging the figures. Profits are likely to

be around £290m, which would compare with £333m last time.

Imperial Chemical Industries also offers half-year figures. The much-changed group ran into flak over the way it updated analysts on its second-quarter trading; there were wild allegations of insider trading as ICI shares fell after it held phone conversations with analysts. Many analysts, as a result, felt the need to pull back forecasts - some made dramatic reductions, with Sutherlands cutting its year's estimate to just £400m. BT Alex Brown looks for a six-month result of £200m (against £160m) and £500m for the year.

Northern Rock, the former building society, has the distinction of launching the banking profits season. Headline interim, battered by special costs incurred last year, should be up from £63m to £105m.

The prospect of rich banking profits - and the inevitable stream of takeover speculation - gave banking shares a shot in the arm last week. The former building societies are unlikely to enjoy quite the feast the longer-established high street banks will experience. Competition in the mortgage market is becoming fierce and Northern's margins will be hit by its aggressive marketing.

Dancing all the way to the High Court

MICHAEL FLATLEY, the flamboyant Irish-American dancer who helped create *Riverdance*, the world-famous Irish song and dance show, is seeking an injunction to prevent four British promoters from passing off their musical, *Celtic Rhythm*, as his own production *Lord of the Dance*.

Mr Flatley helped to create *Riverdance* as a series of song and dance sketches for a Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin. He went on to launch *Lord of the Dance*, in which he stars.

Mr Flatley issued a writ last Monday via his solicitors Schilling & Lom against Philip Armstrong, trading as Phil Armstrong Leisure Management, of Matlock, Derbyshire; Mark Howes, trading as In Time Music, of Chipperfield, Hertfordshire; Anthony Edwards, of Crook, Co Durham; Robert Pratt, of Glasgow; and Chimes International Entertainment, registered at Mr Pratt's address in Glasgow.

Mr Flatley's writ names himself and his company Unicorn Entertainment as plaintiffs. The writ seeks an injunction to stop the defendants passing off any musical or theatrical production called *Celtic Rhythm* as *Lord of the Dance*. It demands that they must not do this by the use of the mark "Lord of the Dance" or any other "colourable imitation" of it; by the use of Mr Flatley's name, or by the use of the words "Featuring the cast of Michael Flatley's *Lord of the Dance*" or "The cast are all twenty of the phenomenally talented boys and girls of *Lord of the Dance*".

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



THE Financial Services Authority (FSA) has obtained an injunction against two accountants, Doreen Stegalls and John Stegalls, and their firm Moorside Accountancy Services, at the High Court in London, accusing them of accepting deposits without authorisation. Mr Justice Laddie gave the order that assets of £275,000 held by the firm should be frozen, and granted an injunction under the Banking Act 1987 preventing the accountants from "soliciting or accepting deposits".

A spokesman for the FSA said this was the first time the authority had used these powers under the Banking Act since taking over the role of supervision from the Bank of England earlier this year. The firm is based at Tradewinds House, 69-71, Ashbourne Road, Derby. The case will come to court this Wednesday.

MARK THOMAS, an English singer and songwriter, is suing Bobby Womack, the veteran American soul singer, over a song he wrote which he claims Mr Womack has copied.

Mr Thomas issued a writ last Wednesday via his solicitors Fenton Hills which says that in 1987 he wrote a song called "You're The One".

His writ claims that "in or about late 1994 or early 1995 the defendant (without the licence of the plaintiff) reproduced both the music and lyrics of the plaintiff's song under the title 'Cry Myself To Sleep' on the defendant's album entitled 'Resurrection'".

The writ also claims that Mr Womack "falsely asserted in writing ... on copies of the album issued to the public ... that the said song had been written by him".

The writ claims that Mr Womack's sleeve notes, which claim the song "Cry Myself To Sleep" was written solely by him, were "printed and published maliciously".

Under "Particulars of Malice" the writ says that it will rely on "the fact that 'Cry Myself To Sleep' is a copy of 'You're The One' which was made by the defendant as has been admitted by his UK manager David Morgan of Bobby Womack & Company, and that accordingly the defendant at all material times knew that the said statement was false".

Mr Thomas is claiming damages and an injunction restraining Mr Womack "from further publishing the said or any similar injurious falsehoods".

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Invitation for Bids

Date: 29th June 1998
IFB No: MTS-VILL/98

- The Government of Maldives, represented by Ministry of Tourism, has announced the development of Villigili in Addu Atoll. Initially with 500 beds, with the option for further expansion after the resort has been in operation.
- The Ministry of Tourism now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the development of Villigili as a 500-bed tourist resort.
- This Invitation for Bids is open to registered companies or syndicates, local and foreign, for a joint venture partnership with the Government.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents, starting from 7th July 1998, at the office of:

Ministry of Tourism
Boduhakurufaanu Magu
Male', Republic of Maldives
Facsimile 960 322512

- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders, from 7th July 1998 to 31st August 1998, on submission of a written application to the above and upon making a payment as follows: The purchase price for foreign parties will be US\$1,200 (One Thousand and Two Hundred United States Dollars) which will include the cost of courier mailing. Maldivian companies registered in the Republic of Maldives wishing to collect the document shall pay Rf 10,000 (Ten Thousand Maldivian Rufiyaa), as the purchase price.
- The bidding documents are non-transferable.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 1200 hrs on Thursday, 6th August 1998.
- Proposals must be delivered to the above office on or before 1200 hrs on Sunday, 6th September 1998.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1200 hrs on Sunday, 6th September 1998 at the office of the Ministry of Tourism, or at any other venue that the Ministry may announce.

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Unpleasant arithmetic for the UK

WHEN THE new Labour government took office last May, there was an overwhelming consensus that, unlike many of its predecessors, it had inherited a "strong economy". GDP growth was accelerating, unemployment was declining sharply, and underlying price inflation was stable at a low level. There were no signs of significant deterioration in the balance of payments, and the government finances were improving rapidly each month.

The outgoing Conservatives attributed all this to the success of their structural economic reforms in the previous 18 years, and even on the Labour side there was an admission that the short-term cyclical position of the economy was satisfactory. In fact, this was the reverse of the truth. Actually, Labour inherited an economy which was poised to experience a sharp deterioration.

This deterioration - which was already inevitable at the time of the election, and which has been only marginally affected by anything that has happened since - will be cyclical, not structural. The Tories are right to claim that the UK's underlying economic performance has probably improved over the previous 20 years (though the extent of the improvement has been somewhat exaggerated). However, superimposed on this broadly acceptable long-term situation, the cyclical position of the economy was unbalanced and potentially dangerous.



GAVYN DAVIES

There is no 'third way' to avoid some economic pain as the cyclical excesses are corrected

Because of time lags in the system, the symptoms of these impending cyclical problems had not become clear ahead of the election, even to many economic commentators. These experts were yet again too ready to overlook the fact that the benign phase of the economic cycle was about to end, and that familiar problems were almost certain to recur in fairly short order.

The benign phase of the cycle occurs when the level of output is below its long-term trend, but when its growth rate is higher than normal, so that GDP is moving back towards trend. Because there is still

plenty of spare capacity in the system, inflation tends to decline during this phase of the cycle. But because output is growing faster than normal, unemployment also declines. The simultaneous improvement in inflation and unemployment makes it easy to reduce the budget deficit. These events typically trigger an outpouring of optimism about the underlying state of the economy.

Usually this upsurge in optimism gathers momentum just when the malign phase of the cycle begins. This happens when the upswing has eliminated the margin of spare capacity in the system and output is beginning to exceed its long-term trend. Unemployment moves below its "natural rate", so wage inflation begins to rise, and this soon leads to problems with price inflation as well. Interest rates rise, and the growth of output begins to slow.

Now comes the really painful part. Even though GDP growth is slowing, inflation typically continues to rise because the level of output is above trend. Output growth now needs to decline quite sharply, sometimes into negative territory, in order to bring the level of output back to its long-term trend.

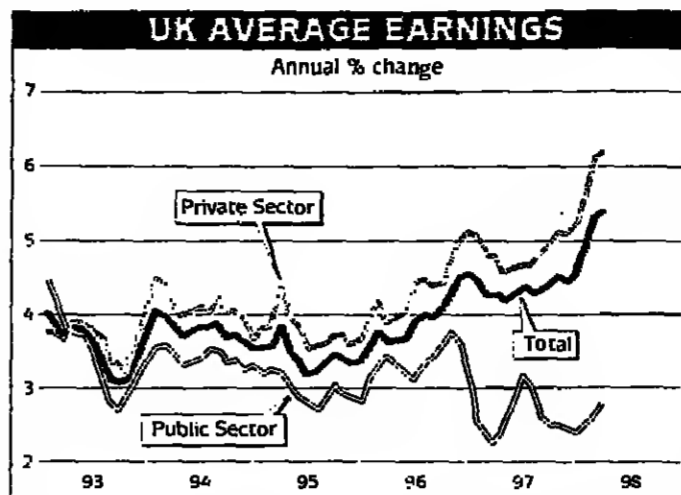
During this period, inflation stubbornly keeps climbing, and unemployment also moves back to its natural rate. This malign phase of the economic cycle, in which every thing deteriorates simultaneously,

can take several years to work through.

Of course, in order to know at any given time exactly where we are in this familiar pattern, we need to know where output is relative to trend, or where unemployment is relative to its natural rate. This is not straightforward, especially when there is scope for arguing that structural improvements may have boosted productivity growth in the economy, or reduced the natural rate of unemployment - that is, the unemployment rate needed to keep wage inflation stable.

This was to a large extent what happened last year. Although, based on most historical precedents, there were strong reasons to believe that output was already above trend, it was tempting to find excuses to ignore the pessimistic lessons of history. It was far more convenient to believe that productivity growth had permanently improved, or that labour market reform had greatly reduced the natural rate of unemployment, or that globalisation had profoundly changed the rules of the game. In other words - and despite the stark lessons of the late 1980s - it was tempting to believe that economic performance had improved sufficiently to allow the boom to continue.

The new development this year is that it is no longer possible to delude oneself into making these optimistic arguments. On latest data, average earnings are rising at an annual rate of 5.4 per cent, and it has become clear that the excuse used by some commentators earlier in the year - that earnings were being temporarily boosted by one-off bonus payments - is incorrect. Worse, private sector pay is increasing at an alarming rate of 6.2 per cent. There is no way that this can possibly be consistent with an inflation target of 2.5 per cent for very long.



The behaviour of wages indicates quite firmly that output is now above trend, or equivalently that unemployment is below the natural rate. If this situation is allowed to persist, then underlying inflation will inexorably rise, and will continue to do so until unemployment has risen enough to stop it.

For a time, this truth may be disguised by the overvalued exchange rate, which could hold the recorded rate of inflation artificially low. But the trade figures, which are now deteriorating sharply, make it clear that sterling cannot remain at its present high levels indefinitely. When sterling begins its inevitable decline, the unpleasant truth about domestic inflation will be unveiled.

The seriousness of this cyclical problem depends on how far unemployment has now fallen below its natural rate. Looking back, it is now clear that average earnings began to accelerate in the first half of 1996, when the level of unemployment was at least half a million higher than it is today. As a

first approximation, this suggests that the natural rate of unemployment may be just under 2 million, or about 7 per cent of the labour force - that is, two percentage points higher than today's rate. The unpleasant lesson from past economic cycles is that unemployment may need to return at least to these levels before underlying inflation will stop rising.

Translated into GDP terms, the implication is that output is now around 1.5 per cent above trend, and that inflation will continue to climb until this excess is eliminated. Since trend output increases at an annual rate of just over 2 per cent, the UK could eliminate its excess output by experiencing three-quarters of a year of zero growth, which would represent a mini hard landing. Or the excess could be corrected more slowly by allowing output to rise at a rate of 1 per cent a year for a year and a half. If it turns out that inflation has by then risen above the 2.5 per cent government target, then the weakness of output will need to persist for even longer to get inflation back on target.

The only choice for monetary policy is, therefore, whether to force output back down to trend quickly or slowly. In this instance, there is no "third way", no alternative which can avoid at least some degree of economic pain as the recent phase of cyclical excess is corrected. The sooner the Bank completes this correction, the better for all concerned.

IN BRIEF

Airbus in talks for £1.6bn order

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is in final negotiations with UPS Airlines, the world's largest package delivery company, over a firm order for around 30 aircraft, a source close to the talks said.

With a list price of around \$90m per aircraft, such an order would be worth about \$2.7bn (£1.6bn).

DB departure

RORY MACNAMARA, a senior director for corporate finance at Deutsche Bank in London, intends to announce his resignation today, investment banking sources said last night.

Mr Macnamara, 43, is the latest in a string of senior executives to leave Deutsche's London-based investment banking operation. Mr Macnamara is not taking another position elsewhere.

Bae in for Casa

BRITISH AEROSPACE is likely to buy a stake in Construcciones Aeronauticas (Casa), Spain's state-owned aerospace company, adding impetus to the consolidation of Europe's fragmented defence industry, analysts said yesterday.

The Spanish government said on Friday that it planned to sell a stake to a corporate buyer to strengthen the planned sale on the stock exchange of shares in the company, which employs 1,200 people and has annual sales of about £420m.

Diamond shares

FIRESTONE DIAMONDS, an alluvial diamond mining and exploration company based in South Africa, is seeking admission to the Alternative Investment Market with a placing of £5m worth of shares, giving the company a total worth of £30m.

Legal alliance

THE CITY solicitors Whitlakers & Paines are about to form an alliance with four leading continental European law firms to create Linklaters & Alliance, the world's largest federation of lawyers, according to *The Lawyer* magazine.

Partners have already voted in favour of the alliance, which could eventually lead to a full-scale merger.

Doughty poised

DOUGHTY HANSON, the venture capital company, is poised to buy the aerospace division of BTR for up to £100m, according to unconfirmed reports in the weekend press.

Jarvis purchase

JARVIS, the quoted rail maintenance company, is seeking to raise £500m from two financial institutions to buy a portfolio of student accommodation from the Government, sources confirmed at the weekend.

News Analysis: The British Biotech affair has damaged investor confidence in the entire sector

UK biotech loses formula for success

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

BIOTECHNOLOGY stocks have slumped since Dr Andrew Millar, British Biotech's former director of clinical research, launched his astonishing attack on the company. Many of these fledgling life science enterprises are now struggling to find the finance necessary to keep their product development programmes on the road.

Has the British Biotech affair undermined the entire sector, irreparably damaging its reputation and credibility? Or is this just a temporary phenomenon from which most companies will eventually recover?

What is certain is that the British Biotech saga has been compounded by a more general succession of poor drug tests. A crisis of confidence has developed, and there is growing evidence that this might damage the long-term prospects of UK biotechnology.

Once hailed as a mecca for investors seeking high growth, the "Biotech Babes" - companies such as Chiroscience, PPL and Celltech - have seen their share prices plunge. The Bloomberg index of UK biotech stocks has lost almost 36 per cent of its value in the past year.

Part of this fall from grace is down to a cyclical downturn in the small cap section of the market, where most of the biotech companies can be found, coupled with a number of less than encouraging trial results from the likes of Celltech.

But there is little doubt that the troubles at British Biotech, one of the sector's flagships, have dealt the biggest blow to institutions' willingness to put money into biotechnology.

The spectacle of a public company being accused by its sacked director of clinical research of having issued over-optimistic statements on the companies' mainstay drugs was too much to bear for a number of fund managers. And the fact that this happened to the leader of the pack led to a domino effect, with institutions labelling the entire sector as "unreliable" and therefore not worth investing in.

Jeremy Cornock-Cook, the head of Rothschild's International Biotechnology Trust, the leading investment vehicle in the sector, explains that institutions wishing to invest in



It's back to the lab for a sector struggling to raise finance as it develops new drugs. Shares have slumped since Dr Andrew Millar (centre) launched an attack on his employer, British Biotech: the companies of Ron James of PPL (top) and John Padfield of Chiroscience (bottom) are caught in the fall-out

drug development companies have to rely on what the management tells them because they often don't possess the technical expertise needed for an independent assessment of companies' product pipelines.

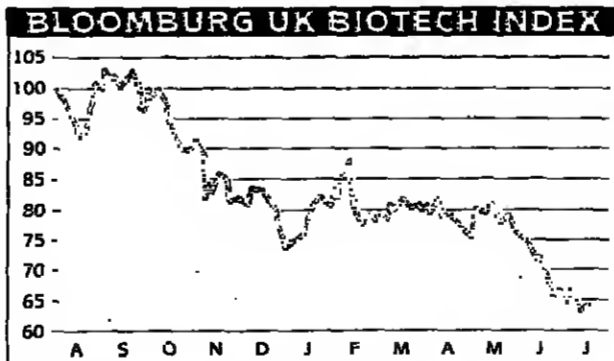
"One of the most troublesome aspects of the British Biotech saga is that it has undermined the institutions' confidence in management," Mr Cornock-Cook says. "That means that institutions are going to be a lot more wary of investing in companies in the sector."

Established companies with apparently sound drug programmes, such as Chiroscience, Vanguard and PPL Therapeutics, and newcomers such as Cambridge Antibody Technology and Oxford GlycoSciences, have all been hit by the malaise.

The Oxford GlycoSciences share price is a case in point. Priced at 280p when the company floated in April, it rose to 318p on the back of early-year enthusiasm for the sector but it has now slumped back to around 225p.

Paul Trueman, finance director, says the company did very little during the period to justify such a swing. "What has changed in our group? Not much. If anything we have made progress and the group is now stronger than it was at flotation, but the share price does not reflect that."

Ron James, the chief executive of PPL, the company behind the cloning of Dolly the sheep, agrees. "We are suffering from a buyer's strike," he says. "What we are seeing is small investors selling, often at a loss, and institutions not buy-



ing, and this is having a disproportionate effect on the share price," Mr James says.

Analysts warn that the effect of the British Biotech affair might be more pervasive. One says it is already crippling the ability of fledgling biotechnology companies to raise funds to finance expensive research

programmes. Biotech works on the assumption of a prolonged period of loss while drugs are developed. The return is made when the product comes to market.

In the meantime, they finance their "cash burn" through periodical fundraising exercises. In the current cli-

mate, many within the industry confess that finding funds is a monumental task. As one senior executive of a leading company put it: "I am glad we do not have to raise money now, because it would be extremely difficult."

Others are more optimistic and believe that established companies with a good basket of products will always be able to find the money they need, while newcomers will have to scale down their expectations and issue shares at a sensible discount to entice institutions.

John Padfield, the chief executive of Chiroscience, believes that the sector's recent troubles have injected a much-needed dose of realism into investors' minds. "People have finally realised that drug discovery is not as straightforward as they thought. We are dealing

with complex disease, and not everything that works on mice works on humans."

However, he insists that "investors will always back up a good company with a good story to tell, while companies at an earlier stages will have to scale down their expectations". As to when and whether biotechnology stocks will pull themselves out of the doldrums, opinions vary. Some believe that the crisis of confidence is here to stay, while others maintain that a string of good trials results and perhaps a couple of drug launches on to the market will do the trick.

Nick Woolf, an analyst with BA Robertson Stevens, is on the side of the optimists. "We do need some positive data to come out and then the sector could be on course for a rapid recovery."

Paris Bourse plans rival to UK-German alliance

THE PARIS BOURSE is planning an alliance with European exchanges left out of the partnership announced between the London Stock Exchange and Frankfurt's Deutsche Borse, its chairman said, writes Bloomberg.

Jean-Francois Theodore, chairman of SBF-Paris Bourse, which owns the French stock and derivatives markets, said

that by September, Paris will present plans to form a rival exchange including Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium. Paris is also discussing closer ties with the New York Stock Exchange. "The European market will be sufficiently large, deep and healthy for us to see two rival trading networks develop side-by-side," Mr Theodore told *Le Figaro*.

The LSE and Deutsche Borse, the largest European exchanges, said on 7 July they would work together to develop a single market and electronic trading system. The announcement spurred almost every exchange on the Continent to begin talks to join the alliance or link up with smaller cross-border counterparts. The London-Frankfurt al-

liance offered Paris a 20 per cent stake, which the French criticised as being insufficient. Mr Theodore said the Anglo-German exchanges were treating other European bourses like "second-class citizens" in closing the door to them for a year while they worked out regulatory, technical and pricing matters. "It's unreasonable to expect us to sit by idly

for one year without reacting." The Paris Bourse is the first to propose an alternative to the London-Frankfurt alliance. Other European exchanges are considering their options. "We don't see it as a threat but as an opportunity," said Raymond Salet, spokesman for Amsterdam Exchanges, before the Paris plan was reported. "We will take the next few weeks to

think... how this will affect us." George Moller, AEX director, told the *NRC Handelsblad* that the Dutch exchange wanted to join Germany and the UK as soon as possible in developing a common securities trading system, but the Dutch exchange would not join an alliance at any price. The Italian exchange is considering its options.

On Thursday, Rolf Breuer,

chairman of Deutsche Borse, told the *Milan financial daily MF* that the success of the Frankfurt-London pact depended on participation of the Paris and other European exchanges.

At \$678bn, Paris's capitalisation is less than Frankfurt's \$825bn and one-third of London's \$1,996bn (£1,200bn), according to the Stock Markets International Federation.

RISES _____ **FALLS** _____

Dr	Company	Price	Change	Dr	Company	Price	Change	Dr	Company	Price	Change	Dr	Company	Price	Change
100	Macdonald Habit	285.5	-3.0	101	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	102	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	103	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5
104	Macdonald Habit	285.5	-3.0	105	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	106	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	107	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5
108	Macdonald Habit	285.5	-3.0	109	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	110	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	111	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5
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444	Macdonald Habit	285.5	-3.0	445	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	446	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	447	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5
448	Macdonald Habit	285.5	-3.0	449	Alfred Lee	61.0	-4.5	4							

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SPORT

Swimming: Decision imminent on whether former Jamaican can compete for Britain in Commonwealth Games

Brinn plunges into brave new world

BY JAMES PARRACK

MOST PEOPLE expect the Jamaican swimmer Sion Brinn to be black and have dreadlocks. In fact, he is white and has bleached blond hair. "People think I'm Swedish you know," he says slowly, and his heavy Caribbean accent is startling. I ask him the question everyone is asking and he flashes the broad smile that has made him such a popular and recognisable character in world swimming. He says nothing, but his eyes betray his feelings. They say, "this is my life, man, and it's in their hands now".

There are the hands of officialdom. At the trials last week, the 25-year-old was selected to compete for England at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September and he would be an enormous boost to the team.

The question is, is he going? He was released from the Jamaican governing body, Jamaican Swimming, on 1 September last year, and the world governing body, Fina, will declare him British from the same date this year. But the Commonwealth Games Federation in Malaysia wants proof that he has been resident here for 18 months before they are prepared to do the same. The original decision was appealed and a final decision is imminent.

His calm exterior betrays this inner turmoil. His dream is to be the first Briton to swim 49 seconds for the 100 metres freestyle. To go 49 is a stamp of approval given to the very elite in this sport and he would finally be recognised by his peers as one of the best. His 50.14 at the trials last week puts him tantalisingly close and is proof that his decision last year to come to the University of Bath is paying off.

Brinn grew up snorkelling and swimming on the beaches of Montego Bay. It was an idyllic childhood of camping, fishing off the cliffs and windsurfing. A natural sprinter, he soon made the Jamaican national age group team and, a few years later, the national water polo squad.

But the young Brinn was approaching an important crossroads. "I was in school to play polo and swim and my grades were terrible. The teachers all thought I'd fall and be a beach bum. But I had planned to follow my sister to Indian River Community College in Florida, so my Dad bought me an airline ticket, put some money in my pocket and said 'go to Florida and get a swimming scholarship'."

By Christmas he was one of the top academic students and he had his scholarship. With a full-time swimming and weight-training programme, carefully timetabled around his school work, he began to excel. It was here that he developed the rare stroke that other swimmers die for: the lazy slap of the hand on the water as his body glides effort-



Sion Brinn has a sub-49 second time for 100 metres freestyle in his sights and wants to be the first Briton to achieve that mark

Robert Hullam

lessly through it; the smooth, natural rhythm in the race when all around him are fighting and thrashing. "I guess it came from survival swimming. The only way I could make the sets in training was to do long strokes, breathing every time. Breathe, glide, breathe, glide, for hours you know?" In his two years there, his times dropped dramatically. He won four national junior college titles and rewrote their record books.

Three successful years at Louisiana State University followed

and at the 1996 Olympics he finished 12th and felt for the first time that he belonged on the world stage. At the Pan Pacific Championships the next year he finished sixth, graduated shortly after and found himself at the second crossroads of his life.

He was living on a couch at a friend's house and completely broke. His father had supported him for the last two years of international swimming and Brinn knew that would now end. A car accident in 1993 left his father needing a hip replacement, which he had postponed for

two years, investing the money instead in his son's development. But now he needed to save for the operation.

Brinn was frustrated with the lack of support he was getting from Jamaica. Michael Kim and Alex Popov were well-financed, well-organised professional athletes and at the very top. As Jamaica's only international swimmer he was left on his own to organise and finance every last detail of his worldwide competition schedule.

So he put a financial proposal to

Jamaican Swimming that would cover his training and competitions in the build-up to the Sydney Olympics in 2000. They could not support his plans so he resigned. He had come so far, everyone knew who he was, and no one it seemed, was doing anything to help.

His father is English and Brinn has a British passport. His sister runs a gym in Swindon and he knew most of the English team quite well. Still, his decision last year to move to the elite training centre at Bath was one of the hardest he

has had to make. "I came here to save my swimming career," he says and he has impressed everyone with his hard work and charming demeanour. Paul Palmer and Mark Foster assured him he would be welcomed in Bath and provided the ideal training partners. The coaching staff hail him as the ideal role model. He lives for sport and two weeks after arriving was nicknamed Sport Billy. He swims, trains in the gym, plays racquetball then returns to the pool for a second swim session.

But he is still supporting himself. For another year he has had no sponsorship and no help. When Fina recognise him as British, he will qualify for lottery funding and will finally feel secure.

Brinn is looking forward to finishing his swimming career in England. He desperately needs the exposure that the Commonwealth Games will bring. If he is just given the chance, he is ready to make history for his mother country and help the team to one of their best games ever.

Flood finds fighting skills floor rivals

ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON
at Strathclyde Park

THE RAIN over Strathclyde Park near Glasgow drenched everyone and everything on finals day of the National Rowing Championships yesterday and even managed to flatten the water in the head wind so that the saving grace was the fair, if slow, conditions for racing.

Bad management, leaving crews sitting through long delays on the start wearing minimal racing kit, rather than the wintry con-

ditions was to blame for two cases of hypothermia.

Debbie Flood, 18, the junior sculler who first took to the water last summer after she had decided that being the under-20 national judo champion at 16 might not offer a route to the 2,000 Olympic Games, gathered up two gold medals, winning the women's quadruple and double scull.

The junior team coach, Mark Banks, said that adapting skills Flood had learned in judo to rowing had certainly helped her sculling.

"As a judo champion she had to

learn how to stay completely relaxed, even before a big strike, to avoid giving her opponent any warning," he said. "This is priceless in sculling, and allied to the toughness in her head which makes her the best-ever find in British women's rowing."

In the men's coxed pair David Bushnell, 25, who last week won the Doggett's Coat and Badge to add to his Henley Regatta finals place, took a gold medal for Upper Thames Rowing Club to complete his best season.

Peter Haining, irrepressible anywhere but irresistible in his

home town, was once again tormenting the management by avoiding an injunction to scratch from the single scull for which he was selected for the World Championships for the fifth time last week.

"I was bored," he said as the only explanation of his appearance in the Leander Club crew in the lightweight quadruple scull.

The benefit of a decade of effort to lift the level of Scottish rowing which began with the first National Championships here in 1988 was exemplified by Stirling ABC. The club produced three sculling

medallists, with Kevin Watson taking the junior single, Mark Dadds the under-23 event and Kevin Plank a second place in the lightweight singles title behind Ned Kittoe. Plank was marginally assisted by the capsizing of Rob Mackenzie 100 metres from the finish.

Katherine Grainger, in her first season as a sculler, won the women's title for St Andrew BC by a thumping 18 seconds from Ma-lindi Myers, of London University.

James Di Luzio scratched from the men's single scull because, as Banks put it, "He has bigger fish to fry."

"He is coughing up a lot of phlegm and won't do himself any good in these conditions. It is not, of course, as if he was going to win it."

The main obstacle was Greg Searle, who compensated for his troubled international season with two eighth places and one 11th in the Krombacher World Cup by taking a gold in the quadruple scull and then winning the single in emphatic style from Mike Webb. For his final trick, the 1992 Olympic champion went into a scratch eight of other scullers and won the men's title.



Greg Searle: Emphatic win

Big man's talent all too briefly seen

Cricketing Falstaff - A Biography of Colin Milburn
By Mark Peel (Deutsch, £17.99)

THERE ARE few cricketers who have been able to pull a crowd away from a bar more quickly than Colin Milburn in his pomp. And there have been few cricketers more capable of attracting a sizeable crowd to a bar when he was holding court after one of his brilliant innings for Northamptonshire or England. On and off the pitch he was a big man. Everything he did was full-size and head-on.

When news of his car accident hit the population back in May 1969 there was a sense of shock quickly followed by a feeling of devastating loss. A nation had been robbed of

BOOK OF THE WEEK

a great player before he had reached his prime. Milburn lost an eye as a result of the crash.

He was 27 at the time and looked finally to have established himself in the Test side. The crash cost England one of the bravest and most exciting batsmen it had barely seen.

English cricket was forced to wait until the advent of Ian Botham before it could boast a man of similar charisma and talent.

In his latter years, before his premature death from a heart attack at the age of 48, Milburn became a

rather sad figure; the drink, which used to be just a one a number of props on the stage of life as he regaled fans at bars up and down the country, became a prop for himself, something to help him through life when he was not immersed in his beloved cricket world.

He was ill-prepared for life after cricket and, as Mark Peel makes plain, that goes some way to explaining why Milburn clung, rather pathetically, to a world upon which he had blazed so gloriously, but so briefly.

This was the tragic flaw which was to be his undoing. Winters must have been a truly chilly time for Ollie Milburn as his legendary feats with bat and ball drifted into time's backwater. It is incredible

that he only played nine Tests, because his exploits for his country - including two centuries - are still talked about by those around at the time.

His last appearance for England saw him score the second of his centuries, a belligerent 139 against Pakistan. His very presence there had been a morale booster to a beleaguered England team. Milburn had been left out of the original tour party, but injuries dictated that he be summoned from a beach in Perth where he was wintering with Western Australia. Milburn arrived in a riot-torn country but was greeted like a king by the rest of the England squad who had arrived en masse to meet his flight. The burly North-easterner responded by

giving an impromptu rendition of the "Green Grass of Home".

The stories about Milburn in his playing days have become the stuff of legend, and are recounted with close attention to detail by Peel, and there is a fair attempt made at analysing and examining the various layers of this gargantuan character. Whether the biographer altogether succeeds is a moot point, but he certainly has a good stab at it.

This is a sensitive portrait of a sensitive young man; it is a eulogy to his cricketer prowess and a long overdue chronicle of what one man can do for sport and what sport can do to a young man. Ultimately, an irresistible read.

David Llewellyn

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 **Rough Ride - Behind the Wheel With a Pro Cyclist** By Paul Kimmage (Yellow Jersey, paperback £8.00)
- 2 **The Sporting News Pro Football Guide 1998** (The Sporting News, paperback, £13.95)
- 3 **Postcards from the Beach** By Phil Tufnell (Collins Willow, paperback £6.99)
- 4 **Gunning for the Double - The Story of Arsenal's 1997-98 Season** By Kevin Whittier (Sporting Editions, paperback, £9.99)
- 5 **How Long's the Course? My Autobiography** By Roger Black (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £15.99)
- 6 **The Royal & Ancient Golfer's Handbook 1998** Edited by Rendon Laidlaw (Macmillan, paperback, £19.99)
- 7 **The Inside Track - The Professional Approach** By Alan Potts (Rowton Press, hardback, £18.00)
- 8 **Merv - The Full Story** By Merv Hughes and Patrick Keane (Harper Sports Australia, hardback, £18.95)
- 9 **Miguel Indurain - A Life on Wheels** By Pablo Munoz (Mousehold Press, paperback, £9.50)
- 10 **Rugby League '98** Edited by David Middleton (Harper Sports Australia, paperback, £13.95)

List compiled by Sportspages, 94-98 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530)
www.sportspages.co.uk

Football: Manchester United midfielder to appear on television before Charity Shield to ask for public's forgiveness

Beckham ready to apologise again

BY GUY HODGSON AND ALAN NIXON

DAVID BECKHAM, who has been all but demonised since he was sent off playing for England in the World Cup, is to again offer an apology, before the start of the Premiership season. Naturally for a player whose image has partly been defined by the small screen, it will be made on television.

The Manchester United midfielder will appear on *Grand*

stand on 8 August, the day before his club's involvement in the Charity Shield against Arsenal when he will attempt to temper the reaction against him since he was shown the red card against Argentina in the second round of France 98.

Beckham, 23, was dismissed for kicking a boot at Diego Simeone which meant England had to survive 75 minutes of normal and extra time with 10 men before they went out on penalties. Since then he has carried the blame for that de-

feat and rival supporters have promised a hostile reception this season.

United travel first to West Ham on 22 August where an effigy of Beckham, complete with sarong, was strung up outside Upton Park. There was also a plan to brandish 10,000 red cards as an expression of anger.

By the time the season starts, Beckham may have two new team-mates. Jesper Blomqvist, the Swedish winger, is ready to join United after thinking over a move - and re-

jecting a rival bid from Lazio. Blomqvist had talks with Parma yesterday and told friends last night that he plans to join United. Blomqvist realises he faces a fight with Ryan Giggs for a regular game but the chance to figure in the Premier League and Champions' League has proved a bigger attraction than staying in Serie A. The Lazio manager, Sven Goran Eriksson, also wanted the 24m-rated Blomqvist.

United also emerged over

the weekend as the front runners to sign Milan's unsettled Dutch striker, Patrick Kluivert.

The Netherlands World Cup striker nominated United as the club he most wants to join, after stressing he does not want to stay in Italy, where he had an unhappy time last season. "I will not be going back to play for Milan," he said.

"Ideally, I want to play in the English Premier League. I admire Manchester United and would welcome a move there."

Kluivert after Alex Ferguson's hopes of signing Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa were stalled when the Midlands club put a £15m price on their Trinidad and Tobago international.

The Dutchman, Ronald De Boer, is pinning his hopes of signing for Arsenal in time for the Charity Shield on the outcome of a contract tribunal next week.

The independent hearing is charged with ruling whether De Boer and his twin brother Frank should be allowed to

break their contracts with Ajax which run until 2004 so that they can complete respective transfers to Arsenal and Barcelona.

Danny Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, hopes to sign the Monaco ball-winner Djibril Diawara in a £2.5m deal today. Diawara, 23, is due in Yorkshire for talks about a move and is earmarked as the first of several Wilson signings.

Diawara was born in Senegal but has a French passport and will not need a work permit

to move to England. He can play centre-half or as a defensive midfielder, a role he performed against Manchester United in Europe last season.

Southampton's former England striker David Hirst may be out of action for up to eight weeks after damaging a knee in training. It is not thought to be an old injury.

After an unsuccessful stay at Tottenham, Norway's goalkeeper, Frode Grodas, formerly with Chelsea, has joined the German club Schalke 04.



Hermann Hreidarsson tries to reach the ball first at a Crystal Palace corner during the south London side's comprehensive defeat at Selhurst Park yesterday

Peter Jay

United super league denial

BY GUY HODGSON

MANCHESTER UNITED have denied they are part of a plan to form a European super league. Indeed, their rebuttal of reports yesterday could not have been more emphatic.

"There is no truth in the story at all," Ken Ramsden, United's assistant secretary, said. "It's pure speculation and we are getting a little fed up with being linked with a super league. It is not on our agenda."

The report, which stemmed from the German newspaper *Bild*, stated United were among 16 leading European clubs meeting in London yesterday to discuss the formation of a midweek league to begin in 2000-2001. Others mentioned included Milan, Internazionale, Bayern Munich, Ajax and the European champions, Real Madrid.

As United were issuing denials, however, a whole host of other parties were following suit, most notably the Premier League. "It's not a matter that's even being discussed," a spokesman said. "When this speculation has occurred before the clubs who have been linked have said they are not interested."

In Germany, there was scepticism, too. The president of the current champions, Kaiserslautern, Hubert Kessler, said the biggest stumbling block would be how a breakaway league could compete with the existing Champions' League, which will involve more matches from 1999-2000 anyway when the format changes to four groups of six clubs.

"The fans would rather see Bayern Munich against 1860 Munich than Bayern against Bilbao," he said. "There is also the sporting aspect. Milan only finished 10th in the Italian league and should not belong in a top league."

Wolfgang Niersbach, of the German football federation, added that if the reports were true that it was a case of the greedy wanting more. "Here we have clubs who are already rolling in cash," he said, "who want to earn more."

Palace's malaise cures Intertoto fever

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

Crystal Palace 0
Samsunspor 2

Whoever heard of an Intertoto Cup tie being delayed by crowd congestion? But that, unbelievably, was what happened yesterday at Selhurst Park where Crystal Palace belatedly ushered in the Terry Venables era 15 minutes late because of large queues at the ticket offices.

If the majority of the 11,758

crowd were disappointed enough to voice their disapproval with a subdued chorus of boos at the end, Venables, most certainly, will not be too dismayed at the outcome.

Nor is he likely to hang himself if Palace fail to make up the leeway in the Black Sea resort of Samsun next Saturday.

The last thing the club's new manager had wanted when he took up his latest appointment during the summer was confirmation that the departing chairman, Ron

Noades, had left him a leaving present of entry into Europe's least coveted club competition. A long run, he reasoned logically, would have hampered Palace's bid to make an instant return to the Premiership but, on yesterday's evidence, Venables will not be blazing any kind of a trail around Europe.

Such was the scepticism of the former England coach towards the Intertoto Cup that there was never any chance of him preferring the game to a

well-earned holiday following his TV punditry at the World Cup. "He'll be disappointed we've lost," said his assistant, Terry Fenwick, without any conviction at all.

Samsunspor, whose home city is more renowned for its export of walnuts than its football team, were, nevertheless, a neat ball-playing side possessing far too much fitness, skill and rapport for Palace. "We weren't great by any standard," said Fenwick with the understatement of an afternoon

altogether too hot for Palace. One of the few Palace players to come close to matching the Turks for devilment was Sasa Curcic, but once the Serb had departed at half-time with a back spasm, Palace's mid field became increasingly ragged.

Up front Matt Jansen, the subject of a recent South Hampton offer of £2.5m, was the only real threat.

The Palace forwards cannot have been encouraged by the sight of the bearded bucca-

neer Gungor Ozturk in the heart of the Samsunspor defence. It was with a "thou shalt not pass" look about him that he swept up at the back. No such composure was evident from the Palace defence, certainly not in the 14th minute when Terry Flannery collided with his goalkeeper Kevin Miller, going for Celim Sagir's cross. That left Ugur Dagdelen with a simple chance that he accepted readily.

The second goal in the 56th minute was from a free-kick dri-

ven past the sprawling Miller, via a deflection, by Irmak Guracar. Worse still would have followed for Palace had Serkan Iykit not skied a penalty.

Goals: Dagdelen (14) 0-1; Guracar (56) 0-2.
Crystal Palace: Miller, Mullins, Austin, Hreidarsson, Polun, Rodgers (63), Edworthy (Thomson, 63), Lombardo, Curic (Smith 46), Fullerton, Shipperley, Jansen.
Samsunspor: Alioum, Melin, Ozturk, Arslan, Isdemir, Alp (Ister, 67), Kologlu, Guracar, Sagir, Dagdelen, 194.
Referee: R. Lunge (Neth).
Bookings: Palace: Fullerton; Mullins. Samsunspor: Kologlu.
Man of the match: Ozturk.
Attendance: 11,758.

Bjorkman seals victory

TENNIS

THE DEFENDING champions, Sweden, took an unbeatable 3-1 lead over Germany in their Davis Cup quarter-final yesterday after Jonas Bjorkman beat Nicolas Kiefer in five sets.

Bjorkman avenged a bitter defeat in the opening singles match to Tommy Haas on Friday by beating the 21-year-old Kiefer in the reverse singles 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4.

Sweden, who have won the Davis Cup six times, will meet Spain in the semi-finals in September. Spain built up a 3-1 lead over Switzerland in La Coruña.

Bjorkman also had a hand in Sweden's doubles win on Saturday when he teamed with

Nicklas Kulti to defeat Boris Becker and David Prinosil.

Thomas Enqvist, who beat Kiefer on Friday, was to play Haas in the final match.

Carlos Moya gave Spain an unbeatable lead over Switzerland with a straight sets 7-5, 6-1, 7-5 victory over Marc Rosset to guide his country into the semi-finals for the first time since 1987.

Rosset had again started well, just as he had done on Friday against the Spanish No 2 Alex Corretja, but soon ran into trouble on his own serve. But, in the ninth game, he double-faulted twice to go 15-40 down though he recovered to save the game.

However, the French Open

champion did not let him off the hook again and broke Rosset's serve in the decisive 11th game. Moya raced through the second set despite some poor first services as Rosset continued to make unforced errors, but the Switzerland No 1 made more of a fight of the third set.

He kept the world No 4, and arguably the best clay court player in the world, at bay before losing his serve in the 11th game and Moya successfully held his own to prompt Spanish celebrations.

"It's great to do it again," the 22-year-old Moya said. "I was very motivated but really I only did enough to win. It was a far from perfect match because I was a little tired."

Travel-weary Novotna bows out

THE WIMBLEDON champion, Jana Novotna, saw her winning streak come to an end when she lost 6-3 7-6 to Amanda Coetzer in the semi-final of the A&P Tennis Classic in Mahwah, New Jersey, on Saturday.

Novotna, going into the tournament on the crest of three consecutive tournament titles, has played on three different surfaces in the past three weeks and admitted: "Every-

thing caught up with me. I knew that it would be tough in the daytime. I was sluggish and Amanda hit deep and kept me on the baseline. A lot of tennis and travel - and I made so many mistakes, it's as simple as that."

Steffi Graf, who said she can see her game improving but feels there is still a way to go, reached the final of the exhibition event. Graf, ranked 57th as

she attempts to come back from her physical problems, credited a change to a racket with tighter strings for her improved play in the final two sets.

"I played a terrible first set," said Graf, a third-round loser at Wimbledon.

"I would barely touch the ball and it would fly off. I didn't have a good feeling. I went to a tighter strung racket and felt better."

England retain series advantage

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL

ENGLAND WERE held to a 1-1 draw by South Africa in the second of their five-match Test series in East London yesterday in a tough, physical and highly entertaining game. England had won the first Test 2-1 on Saturday.

A bright start from England saw Danny Hall almost put them ahead following a shrewd pass from the midfielder Brett Garrard, but Brian Myburgh, the South African goalkeeper who played last season in the National League with Old Loughtonians, saved brilliantly.

Myburgh was then instrumental in preventing England from taking the lead at a succession of penalty corners before South Africa scored from their fifth penalty corner in the 17th minute. David Luckes, saved well from Justin King's shot, but could do nothing to prevent Gareth Murray's follow-up. Mark Pearn then equalised for England in the 24th minute when he deflected in a Jon Wyatt through ball.

South Africa had the better

of the early exchanges in the second half before England had a purple patch with the hosts making goal-line saves from Howard Hoskin, Stuart Head, Pearn and the substitute Guy Fordham. England's onslaught faded, however, as Bobby Crutchley was sent off for a professional foul and the game trickled to a draw.

England's Australian coach, Barry Dancer, said the game was "great and entertaining". He added: "Our defence was well tested. We created some excellent chances which we didn't convert." The third Test is in Port Elizabeth tomorrow.

In Saturday's first Test, Wyatt celebrated his 100th international appearance by scoring both England's goals as they beat South Africa 2-1.

ENGLAND: D Luckes (East Grinstead); M Johnson (Canoe); B Barnes (East Grinstead); J Wyatt (Reading); B Wallen (Cap. Southampton); D Woods (Southgate); A Garrard (Edlington); J Wallis (Edlington); D Hall (Kilford); B Garde (Pole Barnston); M Pearn (Reading). Substitutes used: M Hoskin (Reading), G Fordham (Doncaster), S Head (East Grinstead), B Crutchley (Canoe).

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Fourth Test: Resurrection day for some old favourites as England prepare to reward outstanding county form

Hick's new desire is put to the Test

BY DEREK PRINGLE

THREE TEST careers have a chance of being resurrected while another was potentially launched, after England announced their 13-man squad for the fourth Test which begins on Thursday. Graeme Hick, Ian Salisbury and Alan Mullally all return after playing well for their counties, while Andrew Flintoff is the new-comer. All four could get their chance at Trent Bridge next Thursday.

In a lengthy meeting, the selectors also appointed Alec Stewart in place of Adam Holoake as captain for the forthcoming one-day triangular series. A working squad of 30 players to be set in place in the build-up to the World Cup was adjourned until a later date.

The return of Salisbury and Hick, in place of Ashley Giles and the injured Graham Thorpe, was expected. After a two-year absence from Test cricket, both have sustained their early season form, while Hick, according to the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, "has recaptured his desire to play Test cricket".

There is undoubtedly something in this assessment. An early

achiever, but a late mental developer, Hick flourished on the rock of expectation created by a country and media desperate for a world-beater. Since world-beating has become a goal rather than a necessity, Hick has coped better with failure and is far more relaxed as a result.

Of course there still will be those who feel he has been given ample opportunity to express himself on the big stage and that a Test batting average of 36 is not good enough. Suffice it to say that it took Graham Gooch well into his thirties before he became a truly world class player. Hick might just be similarly cast.

As a replacement for the injured Thorpe, Hick will bat at six. It was not an automatic decision and some discussion was given over to batting Nick Knight down the order, though his absence from the previous county match because of tendinitis in his ankle, probably counted against him. Instead, Mark Butcher, his thumb healed, returns to open the innings.

Save for a groin injury, Salisbury would have probably been involved earlier in the summer. Identifying that England's attack "looked pre-

FIVE IN, FIVE OUT: ENGLAND'S SWEEPING CHANGES

IN: Hick
Weight of runs forced call-upIN: Salisbury
New action has led to wicketsIN: Mullally
Rediscovered his swingIN: Flintoff
Batting form earns wild cardIN: Butcher
Back after thumb injuryOUT: Holoake
Struggling to find county formOUT: Giles
Spinner who did not deliverOUT: Headley
Problems with actionOUT: Knight
Did not shine in stop-gap roleOUT: Thorpe
Forced out by back injury

ty bland" at Old Trafford, the selectors have long been keen to involve a wrist spinner. Salisbury, with 34 first-class wickets to show

for his remodelled action, fits the bill. "Bowling in tandem with a world class spinner at Surrey (Saqib Mushtaq) has benefited Ian," said

Graveney. "He will also have people like Alec around him, as he does at Surrey, and that will help as well."

Like many, Salisbury sought a change of county to inspire him, moving from Sussex to Surrey. Unfortunately improvement was not as easy and it took a winter in Sydney, under the guidance of Shane Warne's guru, Terry Jenner, to catalyse the necessary step up.

Mullally's inclusion is both form and theory based. Apparently the erection of a giant new stand is causing the ball to swing about more at Trent Bridge, a phenomenon some claim is also happening at Lord's, since the completion of the new Grandstand.

If science is perplexed, the selectors seem sure, and Mullally could well play if the pitch offers little in the way of seam movement for Angus Fraser.

Fitting Flintoff into the equation could be more difficult, though Graveney has stated that he is not along for the ride. Picked ahead of Ben Holoake, whose county form has been dire, Flintoff is only likely to be considered should one spinner - almost certainly Salisbury - plays.

A fearsome striker, Flintoff is sure to play a part sooner or later. If Trent Bridge or Headingley do not witness his massive frame, the

one-day series involving South Africa and Sri Lanka, for which Stewart is captain, almost certainly will.

According to Graveney, "nothing should be read into Stewart's appointment," which is for the forthcoming one-day series only and not the tournament in Bangladesh during October.

As a man who likes honesty, Holoake is bound to be disappointed. In under a year, he has seen his stock diminish from the that of all-conquering hero in Sharjah to a largely forgotten county captain.

Graveney, no doubt the principal bearer of the bad news, says that Holoake will have a "big part to play in the future". When that might be depends on how England and their captain perform over the next five weeks.

ENGLAND XI (for fourth Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge, beginning 23 July): M A Atherton (Lancashire) Age 30 Tests 82; M A Butcher (Surrey) 25; I N Hussain (Essex) 30; A J Stewart (Surrey) wicket-keeper 35; 78; M R Rampersad (Middlesex) 28; 26; G A Hick (Worcestershire) 32; 46; A Flintoff (Lancashire) 20; 0; D G Cork (Derbyshire) 26; 22; R D B Croft (Gloucestershire) 28; 14; D K Salisbury (Surrey) 28; 7; D Gough (Yorkshire) 27; 23; A C Fraser (Middlesex) 32; 41 A D Mullally (Leicestershire) 29; 9.

Kallis comes of age at the highest level

SOUTH AFRICA'S tour of England was always likely to provide conclusive evidence of the emergence of a world class all-rounder. It was supposed to be Shaun Pollock, but partly because of injury, the 25-year-old son of the South African

convenor of selectors has yet to justify his pre-tour publicity. Instead he is being rivalled in the all-rounder stakes by Jacques Kallis.

It is turning into quite a few months for the 22-year-old from Cape Town. He made his first Test century on 30 December, a match-saving innings in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne faced by a rampant Shane Warne; he returned career-best bowling figures of 4 for 24 to help South Africa to victory in the Lord's Test last month; and then went on to a Test-best 132 at Old Trafford two weeks ago and undertook a marathon bowling stint in the absence of the injured Pollock and Lance Klusener.

At times during the Old Trafford Test, only Allan Donald was consistently faster than Kallis according to the speed-gun. That would have come as no surprise to one of England's selectors, Mike Gatting said that Kallis's bowling for Middlesex last season was the fastest he saw at Lord's all summer. Others have pointed wearily to the fact that England have contributed to their own downfall yet again by providing Kallis with a full season of county cricket in preparation for a Test series.

Through a combination of league and representative cricket, Kallis has missed only one English summer since 1993, when he first came here on an Under-17 tour. But on a rare day off at Durham last week, nursing the sore hamstring he picked up for his efforts at Old Trafford, Kallis admitted his experience with Middlesex had been invaluable. "It definitely helped me, playing every day," he said. "I opened the batting there, which tightened up my technique facing the new ball in England where the ball moves around a little bit more."

"Mike Gatting was a fantastic guy

A young South African is reaping the benefit of the finishing school that is English cricket. By Adam Szreter

to work with and I got on really well with Mark Ramprakash but everyone was very helpful. Being the overseas player you're expected to perform, and even though it was only county cricket it had the pressures of a Test match which was useful.

"One nice thing about county cricket, if you're bowling well or batting well you can get into a great rhythm and in the end I was basically bowling from memory without really having to think about it."

From the age of eight, following the death of his mother after a stroke, Kallis and his younger sister were brought up by their father within a stone's throw of the Newlands cricket ground. "We became a very close family," Kallis said. "My dad played a lot of rugby, and I always played a lot of rugby (at stand-off) and cricket at school so I had to make a choice."

"When I chose cricket, I got a lot of criticism from schoolteachers and guys I played with, but even though I loved rugby and still do, I felt I was a better cricketer. I'd like to believe I made the right choice."

The fact that any South African of Kallis's generation aspired to play Test cricket was something of a minor miracle. When Kallis was at Wynberg Boys' High - the school that produced Allan Lamb, Garth Le Roux and Paul Adams - the excitement of seeing South Africa play Test matches, either on television or in the flesh at Newlands, was denied them.

"Growing up, your boyhood heroes were your provincial players," Kallis explained. "Western Province have always produced a lot of good players like Peter and Gary Kirsten, and our provincial games were a really high standard and very well attended. I think that's how the cricket community in South Africa stayed together."

Having made his choice, Kallis quickly fulfilled a childhood dream of playing at Newlands, where he benefited from the coaching of Duncan Fletcher, the Zimbabwean who coached Glamorgan to the County Championship last season.

After a monumental unbeaten innings of 186 for his province against Queensland, Kallis made his international debut at Durban in the third Test of England's unhappy tour of South Africa two years ago. "I remember being very nervous," he said, "and I didn't do particularly well in my first few Tests."

"I think my Test career really kicked off when I got 61 against Pakistan in Faisalabad. Unfortunately straight after that I got struck down with an appendix operation, but I think that innings really transformed me."

With a useful contribution in the World Cup behind him too, and then a season with Middlesex, Kallis arrived for the first Test in Australia as South Africa's new No 3 but still looking for his first Test century.

"There were about 70-80,000 people at the MCG and I was on 96 facing Steve Waugh. I ran it down to third man and thought, 'I'd better run four here - I don't care if I get run out. I don't fancy being on 99'. Shane Warne chased the ball down to the boundary and threw it in, and luckily I made my ground."

"It was a magnificent relief, to remove some of the doubts in my own mind and in the minds of some of my critics, to know that I can play at this level."

Now it seems the sky is the limit for Kallis. "I've known him since he was 15 years old," said Bob Woolmer, the South African coach, "and the whole point about Jacques Kallis is that he's a great learner. He's one



Jacques Kallis hones his skills in the nets yesterday during South Africa's game against Derbyshire at Derby

Robert Hallam

of those blokes who always wants to be better. If you criticise his bowling or have a go at him, he works harder. As a batsman he's a very stylish player but not only that, when he gets in he's very difficult to dismiss."

With his girlfriend tempting in London for the summer - "earning a few pounds for me," says Kallis -

and sister Janine coming over next month on a hockey tour, there is every reason for Kallis to feel at home here quite apart from enjoying the camaraderie of a touring side.

Kallis does not share quite the same convictions as some other members of the team, but says:

"Hansie Cronje, Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock and Gerry Liebenburg are probably a little bit more religious than most but they don't force it upon anyone."

"We all see ourselves as good Christians, we're a unit that fits very well together and whatever we do, we do it as a team."

"We came over here to win the Test series, we want to stop just being known as a good one-day side and the next Test is very important to us. If we can win that, the series is over and suddenly all the pressure is off. But we see it as a three-match series now, and we're one-nil up with two to go."

SATURDAY'S CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance Championship

Essex v Kent

SOUTHERN (Day 4 of 4): Kent (23pts) beat Essex (5pts) by 2 wickets

ESSEX - First innings: 295

KENT - First innings: 364 (Hooper 100, Fulton 50, Ilett 4-91)

ESSEX - Second innings: Overlaid 228 (D R Law 52, Gurnam 34-51)

KENT - Second innings

D P Fulton at Hyatt b Such 56 0 4 156 214

R D T Kay b Such 5 0 1 19 19

T P Ward c S G Law b Ilett 7 0 1 27 37

C A Hooper c Pichard b Such 12 0 2 19 29

M A Ealham c Huxton b Ilett 8 0 1 10 25

M V Fleming b Such 15 0 2 28 27

"S A Marsh c Grayson b Ilett 16 0 1 32 36

A P Wells b Such 30 1 0 41 50

D W Headley not out 2 0 0 10 11

M J McGee not out 6 1 0 3 6

Extras (nb 10, nb 11) 21

Total (for 5, 56.4 overs) 155

Falls: 1-13, 2-25, 3-50, 4-55, 5-88, 6-113, 7-145, 8-147

Del Not Bat: M R Rose

Bowling: M Ilett 13-4-28-2, N F Williams 2-0-6-0, P M Such 26-6-67-3, R C Ilett 7-0-24-2, A P Grayson 8-4-25-1

Umpires: G I Burgess and R A White

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - Second innings Overlaid 37-2

Second innings Overlaid

M P Dorman not out 36 0 0 33 405

R T Robinson c Bailey b Silverwood 28 0 3 85 370

"C J Adams run out 23 0 3 84 100

G P Archer c Bates b Huchison 12 0 1 37 48

P J Francis not out 29 0 5 47 49

R C M W Read not out 1 0 0 18 12

Extras (nb 14, nb 14) 28

Total (for 6, 58.5 overs) 160

Falls: 1-4, 2-8, 3-14, 4-43, 5-113, 6-143

Del Not Bat: G W White, P A Scars, K P Evans

Bowling: D Gough 18-1-53-2, C E W Silverwood 20-4-59-2, P M Woodhouse 9-2-21-1, G M Hamilton 4-20-0, R D S Kemp 3-2-2-1

Umpires: J C Balderson and N T Plevins

AXA League

Gloucestershire v Sussex

CHELTENHAM (Day 1 of 1): Gloucestershire (4pts) beat Sussex by 35 runs

Gloucestershire - First innings

R I Dawson b Robinson 60 0 7 39 41

T H C Hancock b W Kiley 0 0 2 7 7

"M W Alleyne b Robinson 17 0 2 34 42

A J Wright c Carpenter b Robinson 0 0 0 9 9

M C J Ball c Humphries b Kiley 0 0 1 20 20

Sussex - First innings

R K Rao run out 22 0 0 6 66

W G Khan c G B Alleyne 25 0 2 52 66

"C J Adams run out 5 0 0 10 12

M G Swan c Dawson b Waite 78 0 3 89 113

M Newell b Lewis 19 0 2 29 25

R S C Martin-Jenkins b Lewis 13 0 2 15 12

J R Carpenter run out 0 0 2 2 2

J S Humphries c Ball b Smith 13 0 0 25 32

J D Leary b Waite 0 0 1 1 1

R J Leary not out 5 0 0 3 6

M A Robinson b Smith 0 0 0 3 3

Extras (nb 13, nb 12) 25

Total (for 10, 38 overs) 184

Falls: 1-10, 2-31, 3-42, 4-57, 5-39, 6-139, 7-178, 8-179, 9-185

Bowling: J Lewis 8-0-38-2, A M Smith 8-2-26-2, C A Waite 7-1-20-1, M W Alleyne 8-0-36-1, M C J Ball 8-0-37-0

Umpires: D J Constant and T E Jesey

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

LEICESTER (Day 1 of 1): Northamptonshire (4pts) beat Leicestershire by 5 wickets

Northamptonshire - First innings

P V Simmons c Warren b Taylor 8 0 0 26 47

V J Wells b Follett 14 0 2 10 9

B F Smith b Follett 10 0 1 17 12

Northamptonshire - First innings

M B Lowe b W b Maddy 47 0 4 72 73

"P J Warren c Smith b Brimmon 19 0 1 52 60

"M M Curran c Simmons b Brimmon 8 0 1 8 8

A L Penberthy not out 38 0 2 54 64

J M Snape c Mason b Mason 10 0 2 16 13

R J Bailey b Brimmon 13 0 0 23 29

T C Walton not out 2 0 0 2 9

Extras (nb 10, nb 12) 22

Total (for 5, 28.4 overs) 144

Falls: 1-61, 2-68, 3-76, 4-88, 5-127

Del Not Bat: D J G Sales, J P Taylor, F A Rose, D Follett

Bowling: V J Wells 8-2-14-0, D Williamson 5-0-33-0, J M Snape 8-0-39-1, M T Brimmon 8-1-23-3, D L Maddy 4-0-16-1, P V Simmons 5-1-15-0

Umpires: B Leachman and A G T Whitehead

Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Match

MCC v Rest of the World XI

LORDS (Day 1 of 1): Rest of the World XI beat MCC by 6 wickets

Rest of the World XI - First innings

S T Jayasinghe b W b Smith 47 0 4 72 73

"S R Tendulkar b Maddy 19 0 1 52 60

"M M Curran c Simmons b Brimmon 8 0 1 8 8

A L Penberthy not out 38 0 2 54 64

J M Snape c Mason b Mason 10 0 2 16 13

Northamptonshire - First innings

M B Lowe b W b Maddy 47 0 4 72 73

"P J Warren c Smith b Brimmon 19 0 1 52 60

"M M Curran c Simmons b Brimmon 8 0 1 8 8

A L Penberthy not out 38 0 2 54 64

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R J Bailey b Brimmon 13 0 0 23 29

T C Walton not out 2 0 0 2 9

Extras (nb 10, nb 12) 22

Total (for 5, 28.4 overs) 144

127th Open Championship: Amateur remains unfazed by dream finish but only success makes the professional happy

The innocent and the damned

BY KEN JONES

When you are just 17 years old and in with a chance of becoming the Open golf champion fear doesn't enter the equation. "Justin, I love you," a burly scouser bellowed from the top of the bank as Justin Rose made his way along a rough path to the fifth fairway at Birkdale.

Rose smiled, acknowledging the applause whenever it came, not in the least self-conscious with the attention. A wave, serene, the innocence of youth allied to a burgeoning talent. To be so young, to have such a gift, the joy of it.

Spotting a familiar face in the gallery Rose broke stride and crossed to the ropes. "Nice to see you," he said. Not a care, none of the introspective strain you find on the faces of battle-hardened golfers.

Probably, the professional career Rose has chosen will change the South African-born teenager from Hampshire, innocence giving way to the seriousness of a sporting trade so cruel at times that two modern Open champions, Phil Rogers at Sandwich in 1981 and Ian Baker-Finch at Birkdale seven years ago, went into free fall. Fewer waves, a harder face, preoccupation with the game and perhaps a manager to school him in the art of evasive comment.

If that is to come then let us be grateful for the fairy-tale that unfolded at Birkdale, for a teenager's daring and skill in conditions that did for so many of golf's leading figures. As the casualties piled up, Rose kept going, unfazed, bright of eye, boyishly confident. Another golf course, another game, another reason for Rose to think that life is for living.

Sport can be like this sometimes. You think you've got it all worked out, but nothing will intrude upon essentially cynical perceptions. Then someone comes hurtling out of nowhere. A Michael Owen, confirming his potential in the World Cup, and now Rose gaining, at 17, the respect of his heroes. "He's got the talent to win here," Tiger Woods said after completing his third round on Saturday. The admiration of one young man - Woods's huge reputation and massive earning power was established before his recent 22nd birthday - for one even younger. When Woods competed in the Masters as an amateur three years ago there was little of the testiness he now frequently displays on the golf course, his personality already disfigured by the pressure of maintaining status.

Nobody had to tell Rose that he had the game to win out there. He felt it. Birkdale had no terrors for him. Strain did not figure in his lexicon. "Pressure, hell, at that age I didn't know how to wipe my backside," an American said.

Golfers don't have to go out wearing shin pads or helmets. They don't get carried from the field. The worst thing they see is a ball in knee high rough or plugged in a deep bunker. The hurting is inside.

Rose didn't hurt because he is too young to be seriously affected by disappointment. He just went out and played, just let it happen.

Greeted by thunderous applause when he arrived on the first tee, the only British player left in contention, waving to the audience, he drove into deep rough on a high mound, and smiled.

No way to begin your last round in the Open, one that might have immediately invaded the confidence even of men with vast experience. Rose just got on with it, sensibly lobbing out, settling for a bogey.

The further Rose travelled the more aware he became of the support that had grown up around him, part fascination, part patriotism. A biplane chugged overhead trailing a banner that read "Go Justin".

Fairy-tale finish for the fearless Rose



The British amateur Justin Rose plays out of trouble on his way to a share of fourth place at Royal Birkdale yesterday
David Ashdown

Boys and girls of Rose's generation held up white sheets emblazoned with his name. At the par-three fourth Rose hit a beauty. Twelve feet. Birdie. Then more trouble, a shot going at the par-three seventh after finding a bunker.

From then on Rose went about enjoying himself. "I always felt I was too far back," he said afterwards. "But pressure didn't come into it because the support was simply incredible."

At the 12th, another par three, Rose birdied again and then got himself right back into contention with a birdie at the 15th. Not enough but a moment to come that will last through his lifetime.

Rose's tee shot at the last sailed left over a barrier. The five-iron he fired from there finished short in rough leaving him to play in over a bunker. The ball ran on and fell into the hole, causing a roar like no other heard in the tournament. Rose spread his arms wide in celebration. It was his last shot as an amateur. "I couldn't believe it," he said when announcing his decision to turn professional.

Watching the ball roll on, closer and closer and then in, filled Rose with wonder. "I hope there are going to be a lot of thrills but I can't imagine many better feelings on a golf course. It was incredible. A tough shot to attempt but I had nothing

to lose. What a way to finish." "At the beginning of the week I just wanted to be part of it," he said. "But coming up the 18th I felt like a winning player. I'm just glad to be where I am though. I have no regrets, just feel really fortunate."

As leading amateur Rose collected a silver medal. As a pro he would have made nearly £70,000. The money could wait. For the time being he could not think of anything better.

Rose can look forward to a flood of sponsorship deals. He claims to have received no offers so far but when told he could soon be a millionaire, he said: "I'll look forward to that. I've had no offers yet but I am available."

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

WE CAN be safely sure that Tiger Woods does not have any Rudyard Kipling at his bedside. Little triumphs he can take, but when it comes to the inevitable adversities of his profession the American has some way to go.

In the kiln of the final round yesterday Tiger Woods gradually unravelled. His pledge to patience evaporated in the growing realisation that he was not going to win the 127th Open. It was a rather crusty sight.

Woods admits that he tried too hard at Troon last year. It is an analysis he will have to recognise again in the days to come. On several occasions yesterday the pile of gunpowder barrels that live inside him threatened to be ignited. In the howling celebrations of birdies over the last two holes came the evidence of the pressure that has both been put on, and accepted by, the young man.

It had been so different when match 37 was called on the first tee. Tiger arrived in his traditional final-round red with four men who have been his regular course companions this week. Rather oddly, Woods's security men are almost unique in these parts for not having seen him play a shot. They face the galleries, looking out for muters.

Woods appeared rather relaxed. He was lobbing a ball in his hand, laughing and joking. Once he made his first contact though, the fun seemed to stop.

There was a great forest of cameras banked up to capture the action and, for once, they were not all trained on Woods. His playing partner was Katsumi Tomori, of Japan, who had recorded, along with Costantino Rocca, the lowest round of Saturday. There was never ever any prospect of him repeating that feat.

Accompanying Woods is like trying to play golf in the middle of the Pamplona bull run. The galleries are gigantic and, once Woods has played, many of the herd members thunder around with little regard for anyone else.

Still, old Tomori smiled a lot and there weren't many people in his group doing a lot of that.

Woods' day almost ended on that first green. His approach left him with a decent opportunity at his first putting attempt. Then, for the first time, but certainly not the last, the adrenalin spurted into his system. Woods' first putt went way past, the second stayed on the lip, and the third was propelled into the hole in a manner which provoked official interest.

The suggestion was that the ball had been dragged in. Sir Michael Bonallack, secretary of the R & A, and Hugh Campbell, chairman of the championship committee, scrutinised video tape of the incident with a two-shot penalty a possible outcome. They decided there had been no infringement.

Woods certainly did not look relieved. He was braced off. It appeared that he might spear his bag with the putter, but he contented himself with a moan with Fluff, his caddy.

When things are going well, Woods plays a lot of one-potato, two-potato with Fluff, who looks like Craig Stadler's brother. The fists were not coming together much until very late yesterday.

Woods cheered up a little bit on the second when he cut a recovery quite exquisitely out of the rough to set up a birdie. From there his demeanour was consistently metronomic. Good hole, good mood, bad hole, bad mood.

The American stares at the ground as he walks from green to tee and the intensity he musters is quite frightening when you consider he is still just 22. Justin Rose, whose gay approach was such a contrast to Woods yesterday, doesn't play as if he is 17, but he certainly looks and acts it.

Tiger still some way from being a man



Tiger Woods had an up-and-down day at the Open yesterday but birdies at the final two holes had him howling in celebration
David Ashdown

His father, Ken, walks round with Rose and the player looks as though he might need him. Woods never looks as if he needs a friend out there. He probably doesn't want a friend out there.

Woods was angry on the sixth when a drive went left. "Damn," he said, an admonishment he repeated when he bogeyed the hole. The putter went through 360 degrees and was then thrown towards the bag.

At the short seventh, he was too bold once again and when the five-wood came out of his bag we thought Woods had finally cracked and was about to belt his way back to the clubhouse. There followed,

however, an imaginative recovery and another sunny spell as he refuelled with peanuts and knocked an approach stone dead on the following hole.

Woods was so overjoyed at this that he even applauded a long putt from his playing partner. It was the first meaningful contact since they shook hands on the first tee.

By the 15th, huge fissures were appearing in the emotional dam. It wasn't pretty, but it was pretty impressive as two, huge, muscular swipes got Woods to the fringe of the green. He chipped very close but was aggrieved he had missed an eagle opportunity. Another club was sent swishing around.

At 17 came the snarl and

punch of birdie and at the 72nd a repeat as, for a moment, it appeared Tiger Woods might make a play-off or even win. That, perhaps, would have been inappropriate.

Great days lie ahead for the phenomenon, but he is not yet the complete player some have suggested. Tiger Woods needs to harness his emotions rather than let them run rampant and become shared with an impressionable audience. He needs to understand he cannot do the macho thing with every golf course.

As he learns Woods may indeed become the behemoth figure of the game that many have predicted. Only then will he be a golfing man, my son.

OPEN QUOTES... CLOSE QUOTES

"I have had bad weekends before and I've had bad tournaments. Just because it's The Open you don't treat it any differently. It's still four rounds of golf, so what's the point?" Lee Westwood copes with a below-par performance.

simple as that. He should just enjoy it. He's played better than anyone." Nick Faldo on the Open's young star, Justin Rose. "Mr Visa will tell me exactly how much it's cost when I get home, but we've simply treated the last fortnight as a family holiday." Rose's father, Ken, counts the cost of his son's week.

Russell keeps calm while his caddie quivers

RAYMOND RUSSELL yesterday looked back on the best performance of his golfing life - a joint fourth-place finish in the Open that secures his European Tour future.

The 25-year-old from Prestons went into the week 205th on the European Order of Merit after missing 10 of the last 11 halfway cuts.

But he left Royal Birkdale with £76,666 after a brilliant closing 66 - equalled only by Tiger Woods on the final day -

and said: "Even though I won the Cannes Open two years ago this is the biggest thing I've done."

"I wasn't looking at leaderboards but I thought something was going on. I handed the club to my caddie and his hand was shaking."

"He was trying to hold the broom, keep the club and clean the ball - and he didn't know where he was."

"My girlfriend Clair's been great this year. I've been com-

ing back Friday night like a raging bull, storming about the house and not calming down until Sunday morning."

"It's been difficult for her and difficult for my mum and dad. Obviously they want me to do well."

Russell played with Colin Montgomerie for Scotland in the World Cup last November but then contracted hepatitis and only in the last few weeks has he started to feel anything like back to full strength. He

hopes the Open is just the start of something big.

Nick Faldo had just one silver lining as he finished The Open with his worst total since 1977. He still felt fine.

A second successive 75 dropped the three-time champion, 41 yesterday, on to the 15 over par aggregate of 295. At Turnberry 21 years ago, in only his second Open, he closed 19 over.

Faldo was doubtful for the championship after suffering

golfer's elbow a week last Wednesday on the practice range at Loch Lomond. He needed intensive treatment to make the first tee on Thursday and maintained his record of never missing a half-way cut in the Open.

"The elbow feels good," he said before conversation inevitably turned to Justin Rose.

"I never made The Open as an amateur, so he's got that over me," commented Faldo. "I played with him in practice on

Wednesday and he's striking it well and swinging it well."

"He's playing great, as simple as that. He should just enjoy it. He's played better than anyone."

Faldo has still to break par in any round in a major since the third round of the US Open in June last year.

His next appearance in Europe is the European Masters in Switzerland in September - the first qualifying event for next year's Ryder Cup.

SPORT

KALLIS COMES OF AGE P24 • BRINN'S BRITISH MISSION P19

127th Open Championship: Watts denied his dream as fellow American wins second major in dramatic finish
O'Meara's masterful play-offBY ANDY FARRELL
at Royal Birkdale

MARK O'MEARA, winning his second major of the year, continued the American domination of the Open Championship after beating Brian Watts in a four-hole play-off yesterday. For the fourth time, the claret jug will take a transatlantic journey. Birkdale has always been good to visitors from the States and O'Meara has proved an appreciative guest.

The Masters champion won the Lawrence Batley Classic here 11 years ago and was third in the 1991 Open. Earlier in the week, O'Meara had described how "Americans realise how important this championship is throughout the world; it fires them up."

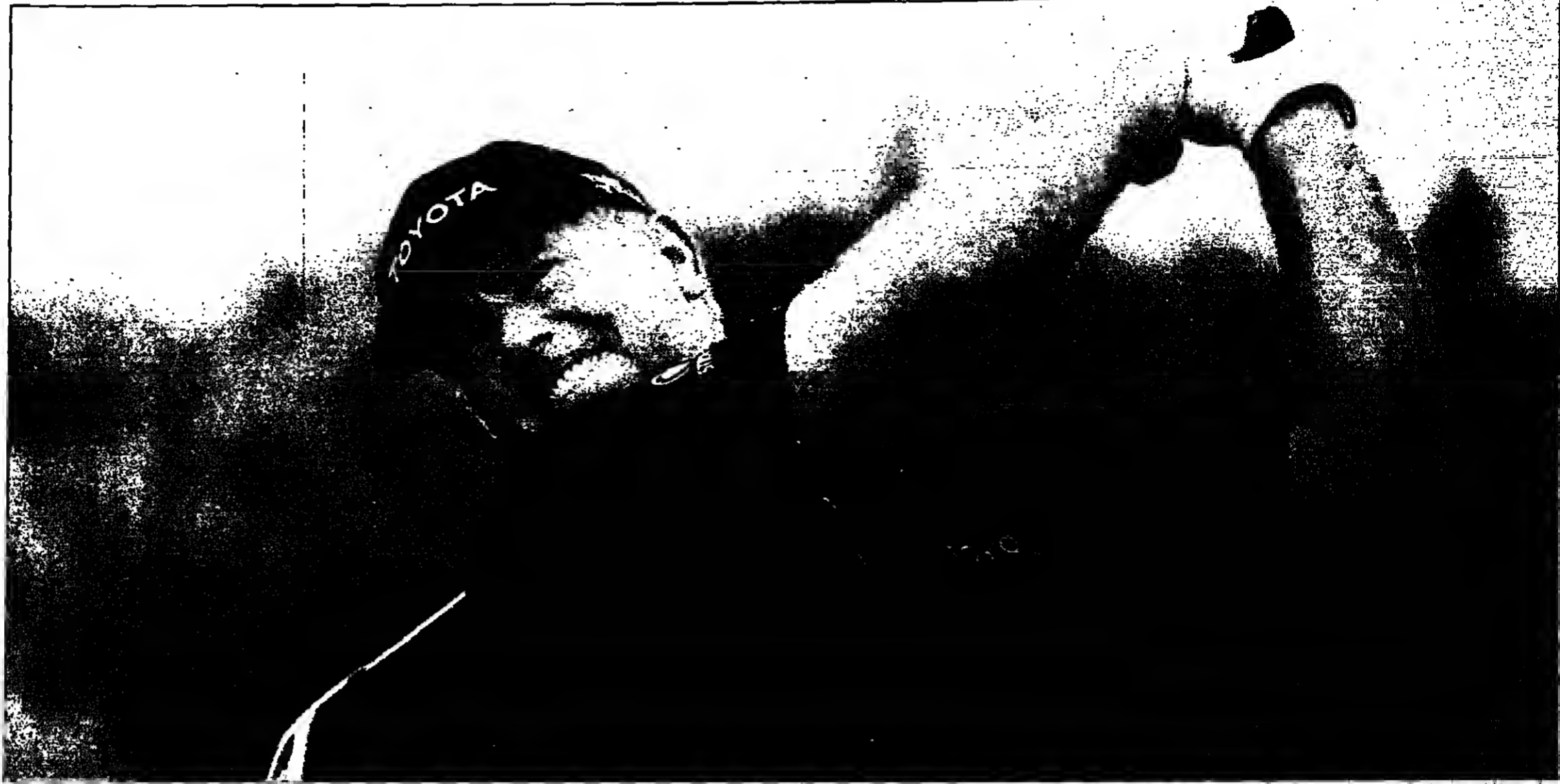
No better example was the fact that he was tied with Watts, a 32-year-old countryman, born in Canada of English and German parents, who gave up trying to gain his card on the US Tour to earn success in Japan.

The play-off featured one player who insisted winning a major was never going to change his life and another whose career would be sent into a different orbit. It took O'Meara 57 majors to finally achieve something that everyone else insisted he required on his resume. His 59th has proved equally memorable as the 41-year-old ended a run of 15 different players winning the previous 15 majors.

Starting at the 15th, O'Meara took a one-stroke lead when Watts bogeyed the hole by failing to match the hole's opponent's up and down. The next was parred but at the par-five 17th Watts drove into the rough. He could only back out, left his third short right but got up and down to match O'Meara's par.

One behind at the last, Watts put his approach into a greenside bunker and could not get up for the second time at the final hole in the matter of an hour. O'Meara had three putts for it from the back fringe and though a rueful smile crossed his face when he pushed the first one three feet past, the winning margin was two strokes.

While the fairy-tale of the first amateur winner for 68 years did not come true, Justin Rose still stole the show at the 18th, just like at Birkdale in 1976, when Johnny Miller was the champion but Seve Ballesteros played a breathtaking chip at the last. The difference this time was that Rose holed his pitch to cause an eruption of cheers from the grandstands.



The American Mark O'Meara hits out on the way to a four-hole, play-off victory over his compatriot Brian Watts in the Open at Royal Birkdale yesterday

Craig Jones/Allsport

It was Rose's last shot as an amateur. "What a way to finish," he said. His next tournament will be the Dutch Open which starts on Thursday and he will be able to accept any prize-money he makes, as opposed to turning down a cheque for just under £70,000 yesterday.

"I've made my decision this moment. The way this week has gone, I'd be silly not to," Rose said.

Rose finished with a 69, after going to the turn in the two over, to tie for fourth place with Raymond Russell. Jesper Parnevik and Jim Furyk Moments before Rose finished, Woods holed a 30-foot putt at the 18th for his third birdie in the final four holes. His charge was just too late to join his friend O'Meara in the play-off but his 66 was matched only by Russell.

Watts had needed a par at the last to make the play-off and achieved it despite hitting his tee shot into the rough. His second found the greenside bunker on the left but a glorious recovery left him a tap-in for his four. Watts, the leader

since Friday evening, defended his territory in fine style with a final round of 70.

A dropped shot at the fourth was quickly redeemed as O'Meara briefly tied for the lead. The 12th might have been crucial. Watts' tee shot finished behind a mound on the right and his blind shot did not quite find the green. But a feature of his play for the previous three days was a calm and steady tempo and he now got down in only two more for a bogey.

However, he needed a birdie at the 17th to draw level again with O'Meara after his more experienced rival came home in 34.

In his closing 68, O'Meara whose silky putter had suddenly catapulted him to victory at the Masters after being three behind with three to play - made four birdies from the 11th to the 17th, although he could not keep bogeys off his card at the 13th and 16th. His tee-shot to three feet at the 19th-yard 14th showed his game is based on more than just exceptional talent on the greens.

Although it was a dank day by the seaside, familiar to the holidaymakers of Southport, gone were the gales of Saturday. That is not to say Birkdale could be described as easy but scores under par were possible. There were nine, as opposed to none in the third round, but the only player who did not drop a shot was Russell, who took the Braid Taylor Memorial Medal as the leading home professional.

After birdieing the third, Russell then parred his way to the 14th where his three-iron came up short in a bunker. He holed the shot, then birdied the next and the 17th. But he hooked his drive at the last and could only back out. His third was a six-iron to three feet, which he holed to save par.

"It had a five written all over it after the tee shot," Russell said. "I wasn't looking at the leaderboard but when you get so close, you want to be greedy."

It was only five weeks ago that the 25-year-old from Edinburgh came off anti-hepatitis after suffering from hepatitis. "This ranks up with my win in

Cannes two years ago," he said.

Russell is managed by the Carnegie company whose chairman is the Rangers chairman, David Murray. Rose is now a stablemate. His was the best finish in the Open by an amateur since Frank Stranahan was a runner-up for the second time in six years in 1953.

Eclipsed was Guy Wolstenholme's sixth place in 1960 and Sir Michael Bonallack's 11th the previous year. "I can't believe it," Rose said. "The whole week was really special and to finish like that was in keeping with the week. I felt like a winner coming up the 18th."

Open reports,
pages 26 and 27

HOW THE DAY UNFOLDED FOR THE LEADERS

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Out	In	Total
Par	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	36	36	70
Watts	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	34	36	68
O'Meara	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	34	34	68
Watts Par	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	3	34	36	70
Woods +1	5	3	4	2	4	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	3	33	33	66
J Rose +2	5	4	4	2	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	3	36	33	69
R Russell +2	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	33	33	66
J Parnevik +2	4	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	3	4	4	4	34	36	70
J Furyk +2	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	34	36	70
D Love III +3	3	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	36	35	71
C Rocca +4	5	4	3	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	35	35	70
T Bjorn +5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	36	35	71

Mark O'Meara vs Brian Watts in a four-hole play-off

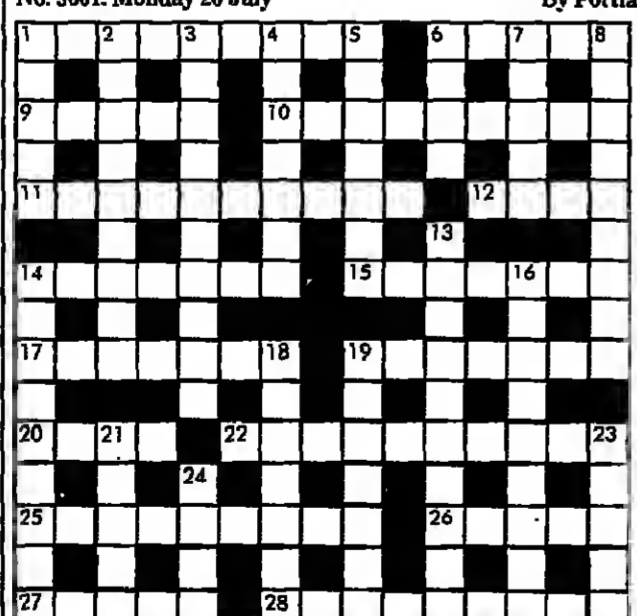
FINAL SCORES FROM ROYAL BIRKDALE

(GB or Irl unless stated "denotes amateur")	N Ozaki (Japan) 72 73 76 73
280	T Kite (US) 72 69 79 74
M O'Meara (US) 72 68 72 68	P Walton 68 76 74 76
B Watts (US) 68 69 73 70	
O'Meara vs Watts in four-hole play-off	
281	D Howell 68 77 79 71
T Woods (US) 65 73 77 66	R Davis (Aus) 76 70 78 71
	D Frost (SA) 72 73 78 72
282	D Carter 71 75 76 73
R Russell 68 73 75 66	P Stewart (US) 71 71 78 75
J Furyk (US) 70 70 72 70	N Faldo 72 73 75 75
J Parnevik (Swe) 68 72 72 70	A Collett 68 77 75 75
J Rose 72 66 75 69	K Tomori (Japan) 73 71 70 79
285	
D Love III (US) 67 73 77 68	295
	B Jobe (US) 70 73 82 71
C Rocca (It) 72 74 70 70	L Mize (US) 70 75 79 72
T Bjorn (Den) 68 71 76 71	S Stricker (US) 70 72 80 74
287	B Mayfair (US) 72 73 77 74
D Duval (US) 70 71 75 71	F Minoza (Phil) 69 75 76 76
B Foxon (US) 67 74 74 72	
J Huston (US) 65 77 73 72	297
288	J Leonard (US) 73 73 82 69
G Brand Jr 71 70 76 71	T Dodd (Nam) 73 71 81 72
289	I Garrido (Sp) 71 74 80 72
J M Olazabal (Sp) 73 72 75 69	S Jones (US) 72 73 79 73
P Baker 69 72 77 71	G Chalmers (Aus) 71 75 77 74
D Smyth 74 69 75 71	I Woosnam 72 74 76 75
G Turner (NZ) 68 75 75 71	E Romero (Arg) 71 70 79 77
290	
R Allenby (Aus) 67 76 78 69	298
C Strange (US) 73 73 74 70	L Westwood 71 71 78 78
V Singh (Fiji) 67 74 78 71	C Franco (Par) 71 73 76 78
M James 71 74 74 71	
S Lyle 71 72 75 72	299
291	S Cink (US) 71 73 83 72
L Janzen (US) 72 69 80 70	M Campbell (NZ) 73 73 80 73
S Torrance 69 77 75 70	D de Vooght (Bel) 70 76 80 73
P O'Malley (Aus) 71 71 78 71	M Long (NZ) 70 74 78 77
S Ames (Irl) 68 72 79 72	M Brooks (US) 71 73 75 80
B Estes (US) 72 70 76 73	F Coupland (US) 66 74 78 81
292	
S Dunlap (US) 72 69 80 71	A Clapp 72 74 81 73
N Price (Zim) 66 72 82 72	
*S Garcia (Sp) 69 75 76 72	301
E Els (SA) 72 74 74 72	G Evans 69 74 84 74
L Roberts (US) 66 76 76 74	
S Maruyama (Japan) 70 73 75 74	303
293	B May (US) 70 73 85 75
S Struwer (Ger) 75 70 80 68	
S Luna (Sp) 70 72 80 71	304
M Calcavecchia (US) 69 77 73 74	A McLardy (SA) 72 74 80 78
294	
J Haeggman (Swe) 71 74 78 71	305
S Thining (Den) 69 76 77 72	F Jacobson (Swe) 67 78 81 79
P Sjolund (Swe) 72 72 77 73	
	306
	K Hosokawa (Japan) 72 73 81 80
	307
	R Giles 72 74 83 78
	308
	P Mickelson (US) 71 74 85 78
	309
	A Oldcorn 75 71 84 79
	310
	D Hart (US) 73 72 85 80

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3661, Monday 20 July

By Portia



ACROSS

1 Up against a Dutch force about to take part (9)

6 Flush with money in a period of prosperity (5)

9 Spoil leave by ending up ill (2,3)

10 Spongy ball is missing outside (9)

11 This English court dealt with Greek poet (10)

12 Lot caught leaving historic city (4)

14 Number of points admitted by fellow artist (7)

15 Grass bearing section thus planted out (7)

17 Gripping start for a climber? (3,4)

19 Visibly upset about a royal broadcast (7)

20 Roughly made cross, by the sound of it (4)

22 European reads both sorts of paper (10)

25 About to cut excessive profit once more (4,5)

26 No longer pretend to be absolutely correct (5)

27 Want to return outside of college time (5)

28 Later on revealed church's liberality (9)

DOWN

1 Gang's threat is a source of anxiety (5)

2 Work shop? (9)

3 Accepted ruling with hesitancy (10)

4 Suppose one's got silver in prospect (7)

5 Notes 'lorry leader's confident about motion (7)

6 We hear of fledgeling composer (4)

7 Honour long time retired Greek character (5)

8 Light oak? (9)

13 Store wraps newly purchased casual clothes (10)

14 American road house? (5,4)

16 Create and build one in prison (5,4)

18 Prohibition around Sandhurst initially in abeyance (7)

19 Direct means of communication (7)

21 Because of pair's performance nothing is gained (3,2)

23 Right heading (5)

24 British keep quiet about a hit (4)

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MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

The girls are singing "Stand by me". Their voices crack on the high notes. "Oh darling, darling ...", but still we clap politely as this is the school concert and we are proud parents. We applaud the inevitable efforts towards multi-culturalism, the obligatory steel pans and the Turkish instrumentals. Then something else happens. A kid with a Calvin Klein T-shirt, his face obscured by locks, starts rapping over a jazz number. He passes the mike to the skinny white saxophonist who might be all of 15. He who tells it like it is, though we can't understand much of what he is saying. It doesn't matter. The kids go wild and so do the grown-ups. A connection is made.

This is not the usual muted "appreciation of other cultures" that I have witnessed at so many other school events. It is something else altogether because rap is not "another culture". It is part of the culture of all these kids, black and white. It is what they know. A feeling comes over me that I have so little experience of that I scarcely recognise it. I feel patriotic. This is not the patriotism of warm beer and spinners on bicycles or village greens. My pride isn't rural or nostalgic, it is profoundly urban and contemporary and I can't help wondering for all his identification with "Young Britain" if Tony Blair understands what is happening to the country his children are growing up in. In 1995 we were to rally around a spurious notion of cultural homogeneity. The British people, Blair told us in his strangely verbless style, were "Decent people. Good people. Patriotic people ... these are 'our' people ... It is a new Britain. One Britain; the people united by shared values and shared aims".

Really? Is that what he thinks about Scotland, which within three years could be an independent nation state? Do Scotland and England have shared values? How are we to be united when the Union itself is unravelling before our eyes? Indeed, those most vocally loyal to the union are those who mystify the majority of British people. What are the Orangemen going on about? Why do they wear those

BY SUZANNE MOORE

silly bowler hats? Their allegiance appears to be only to the past, truly another country and certainly not the one that most of us inhabit.

The line that says devolving the union is the best way of preserving it may be a precarious one to tread, but it is the one that is being trodden nonetheless. Beyond the platitudes, though, has this government, which has successfully usurped the *One National rhetoric* of the Tories, got any real idea of what this one nation actually is? I realise that New Labour, in trying to please all of the people all of the time, may talk of New Britain - of Cool Britannia - but it still depends on the old symbols. Press officers handed out the Union Jacks that were waved outside No. 10 on the morning after the election. Labour's unfortunate Minister without Portfolio even took to posing with a bulldog. While we know that "There ain't no black in the Union Jack", there certainly isn't any in the St George's flags that are made in Taiwan and drooped over council flat balconies everywhere during the World Cup. As we prepare to fully enter Europe, a residual English nationalism has shown its bloated face once more.

Indeed, one might chart the rise of Englishness as a national identity in recent times as coinciding with the apparent decline of Britishness. Having said that, I would always call myself English rather than British. The United Kingdom is neither united nor reigned by a king. I feel myself at a deep level to be a product of the country that I grew up in. I have no family tree to speak of. My roots are in English culture, but like many people I only really feel any sense of national identity when I leave the country.

British identity, though, depends on a legal and political collective that many of us find difficult enough to comprehend, let alone defend. The British State is made up of four nations and many nationalities and yet, ironically, it is the dominance of Englishness over the rest of Britain that has laid the foundations for the current devolution of what we all Britain. Just as Russia, the largest country in the Soviet Union, dominated the others, it is all too easy to regard Britain and England as the same thing. A friend of mine recently embarrassed herself on a flight to Ireland. She was more than pleased to see the duty free trolley but exclaimed loudly "Oh, I didn't know there was duty free - I didn't think we were leaving the country".

Englishness and Britishness, though, are not and never have been one and the same. A H W Fowler put it: "It must be remembered that no Englishman ... calls himself a Briton without a sneaking sense of the ludicrous ...". The deliberate emphasis on Englishness as Britishness by Tory politicians, from Enoch Powell to Norman Tebbit to Margaret Thatcher, was largely a delusion. Its high point was the Falklands war as a desperate way of putting the "great back into Great Britain". The conservative version of Englishness could not deal with black people, women or even its own working class. It certainly could not deal with British Jews, Hindus and Muslims. At a more fundamental level, it could not even begin to explain the relationship of English culture to the British state. The left-wing riposte, with its deracinated attempts at multiculturalism and stress on a European identity, has also been problematic. The Third Way appears to be the imagining of a brand new British identity as something essentially shiny and modern, cultural rather than political. Yet the re-branding of Britain, the re-definition of a British identity based on laptops and casual wear, on Brit pop and Conran design, is also now faltering.

When our young designers and artists and musicians were left to themselves rather than being signed up to the project of re-branding Britain as if it were little more than a giant corporation, there was a genuine feeling of self-confidence. British people did not need to be told from on high to come up with a new image. It was happening organically. We did what we always did best, which was to exploit the tension between the old and the new. Out went Laura Ashley and Merchant Ivory, in came Vivienne Westwood and Damien Hirst. At the same time, Scot-

land and Ireland were effectively selling their own vibrant cultures direct to the rest of the world, often bypassing London and going straight to Brussels. We might not be much cop at manufacturing things any more, but by god we could manufacture sensibilities, music and ideas.

In 1990, D D B Needham, an ad agency asked "foreigners" which adjectives most summed up Britishness. The response was "proud, civilised, cultured, arrogant and cold". That already seems a very long time ago. Post-Diana, we see ourselves as an emotional people given to public displays of feeling. For that peculiar week we wondered if such communal outpourings of emotion meant that we had become more Mediterranean, more American, as though such behaviour did not compute with the stereotypes of Britishness that we had internalised. Our self-image was rocked. Tony Blair rode this tide of emotion and used it to his own advantage as a youngish Prime Minister in touch with a young country.

None of this, however, can hide the fact that at the core of Britishness there is an emptiness. The centre cannot hold because Britishness was formed largely in opposition to other forms of nationalism. Historically, Britishness was created out of an un-

derlying anti-Catholicism and attachment to the land; the process of union and conquest went hand in hand. Our pretension to statehood depends hugely on what goes on in the margins. Yet, while the margins used to mean the Empire, the margins that matter these days are much closer to home. "The margins" of Scotland, Ireland and Wales are shaking the centre. As we have seen, "the Irish question" has traditionally been a way of avoiding the British problem. The prospect of peace in Ireland means that the British state will have to re-evaluate just what and who it is for. The hollowing at the centre of Britishness is exemplified more than anything else more eerily empty space of the Millennium Dome. This symbol of national identity and national renewal is a costly exercise in patriotism, and yet we do not know how to fill it up. We must merely be overwhelmed by its contents when we finally see them.

The essence of Britishness as defined in T S Eliot's famous list - Derby Day, the Henley Regatta, Cowes, the dart board, a cup final, beetroot in vinegar, boiled cabbage cut into sections, Gothic churches - would these days have been re-written. But as what? The Notting Hill Carnival, garden centres,

Eastenders, a lottery ticket, a themed pub, a take-away pizza cut into sections, a shopping centre of the kind from which James Bulger was abducted, a holiday in the sun, a chill and cook medal, a protester at Twyford Down up a tree?

It is around the myth of rural Britain that a strange convergence occurs between conservative and alternative versions of Britishness. The New Age travellers, with their talk of Albion, their vague reworkings of Celtic, Druidic and Arthurian legends, sound remarkably close at items to the image of Britain conjured up in Enoch Powell's early speeches about this "island race".

Powell saw "This marvellous land ..." with its "fields amid which they built their halls, their cottages, their churches, and where the same black-thorn showered its petals upon them as upon us". This is a version of Britishness reduced to England's dreaming and it dreams of itself as a rural idyll.

The question, then, is how do we create a modern version of Britishness that is inclusive rather than exclusive, that is based in the present rather than the past, that is urban rather than rural, that is genuinely multicultural, that does not reside in "middle England" but amongst a society of hybrids

and mongrels. Perhaps we may look to the past, but the defining quality of Britishness is that it is paradoxical and out of this paradox comes much creative energy.

Perhaps it is also time to turn to the other Mr Blair - Eric Blair - whom we know as George Orwell. He made the vital distinction between nationalism as a claim to natural superiority and patriotism. Patriotism means love for one's land, and therefore anybody who grows into that love may be a patriot. In *The Lion and the Unicorn* he wrote that "Patriotism and intelligence will have to come together again". When that day comes we will be able to call ourselves British without apology and in letting go of what we once were we may look around this strange old place and find that we are already living in a new country.

Further Britannia, page 8:
Sporting Britannia Robert Winder on heroic failure on the fields of play
Vox Britannia What being British means to the man and woman on the street
Absolutely Britannia Deborah Ross on the picnic and other curiosities



Real Britannia

What does it mean to be British?

The first of a major five-part series about a nation in search of identity

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When Hera met Allah

NEVER MIND all the bishops milling around at Lambeth - there has been a much more important religious conference going on this year, and that is the gathering of the main gods of the world which takes place every 10 years - yes, the Hindu, Christian, Muslim deities, and every other one that matters.

I have never attended this divine conference, owing to my non-divine nature, but I do have a press release covering the proceedings of the last conference (May 1998, our time) and I think you will agree that it sounds a lot more interesting than the Lambeth get-together.

Here are a few salient paragraphs from the report of the meeting, just to give you the flavour.

1. The Jewish God and the Christian God had had several more meetings to

Allah have anything new to report on this? Allah said he personally was glad that Mr Rushdie was still in hiding, as this showed that Mr Rushdie took the fatwa seriously, even if nobody else did. He himself, added Allah, had not read *The Satanic Verses*, as he was forbidden by his own religion from doing so. There was laughter.

6. Talking about Satan, said the same Hindu god/goddess as had spoken previously, had there been any change of mind about inviting devils and kings of the underworld to this conference? The chairgod said that they had discussed this long and hard and were still of the opinion that inviting devils and demons to a high-level all-deity conference would be taking creeping liberalism too far.

7. Thoth, an Egyptian delegate, said he did not normally side with Thor, but really he could not put up with mockery from gods who were still believed in directed at gods no longer worshipped. There were some gods still believed in today who could not have gone three rounds with some ancient gods he could mention. Besides, the ancient gods had much better stories...

8. The motion was seconded by a block of Aztec and Mayan gods.

9. The chairgod said they could second the motion as much as they liked but a sub-committee of gods had gone over and over this one till they were blue in the face, and they had never come to a conclusion. In his view, the whole subject was bedevilled by the fact that there were lots of gods in the old days and very few new ones, so the old gods tended to have more votes. Perhaps there was a case for divine PR.

10. The chairgod asked the Catholic God to report on any noteworthy visions in the Catholic world in the previous decade. The Catholic God said that divine visions were being provided at the usual frequency, but that the failure rate was increasing. This was because of children being told to be wary of strange grown-ups: on at least five occasions the Virgin Mary, having appeared to a child in a vision, had been told by the child to stop pestering them or they would get their parents to give her a good hiding. On one occasion two years ago St Joseph had appeared in a vision in Guatemala to a group of peasants and had been taken hostage.

11. At this point, the God of Ian Paisley stood up and furiously demanded a chance to speak. He would not make a fuss, he said, but the Catholic God was being given far too much airtime.

12. The chairgod ruled the God of Ian Paisley out of order, saying that there was still no proof that he was a genuine god.

5. The chairgod called for order, and moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Salman Rushdie fatwa. Did

More of this some other time



MILES KINGSTON

Thor asked it to be placed on record that he regretted the spread of peace

discuss a possible merger but nothing had been decided. The Jewish God had maintained that he still wanted nothing to do with the millennium, and the Christian God had said, All right, be that way. The next meeting will take place after 2000.

2. There was general agreement among gods that the 1990s had been a hopeful decade. There had been no major war on earth, which was a source of satisfaction to all concerned, except Thor. Norse god of war and thunder, who asked it to be placed on record that he regretted the stifling spread of peace.

3. A Hindu god said that he (or she, it not being clear) opposed the involvement of Thor in these sessions. The Norse gods, he/she said, had not had any followers on Earth for at least 1,000 years and were not entitled to representation in these matters. He/she moved that the Norse gods in future not be asked to these inter-deity conferences.

4. Thor said that normally he wouldn't pay any attention to what some six-armed creep who couldn't throw a hammer with any of them said about life in general, but in this case he was prepared to make an exception and would the lady or gentleman in question come outside and say it again.

5. The chairgod called for order, and moved on to the next item on the agenda, the Salman Rushdie fatwa. Did



In the first of a new series on Butlin's Somerset World at Minehead, Somerset, a redcoat, centre, urges on contestants in a game called 'Young Trojans' John Voos

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Gay age of consent

Sir: So, Baroness Young is cruising the lobbies once again, attempting to coax some of her colleagues to go back up into the trees ('Toryplot to reverse gay consent Bill', 17 July). I suspect they are too highly evolved to give her this satisfaction. Next Wednesday's vote in the Lords on the equalisation of the age of consent ought not to be about late-medieval sexual prejudices. It is a very practical vote about real people.

For 31 years the law has been telling some young men that they are inferior to other young men, and to all women. It says that at the age of 16, all heterosexual boys are adults, and all girls are adults whatever their orientation, but same-sex-orientated boys are children. Everyone of that age is legally free to love (and, if they are so lucky, to be loved), just as their hearts, minds and bodies tell them, except for this one inferior minority.

The law does the worst thing any law can do: it creates innocent victims. These socially marginalised young men are uniquely vulnerable to depression, self-hatred, self-harm, substance abuse and attempted suicide. Foolish clerics with imposing titles preach against them. Malignant activists assure them they are doomed to become child-molesters, and to die of nightmare illnesses. At home, their own families relish this silly farrajo against them. At school, too many teachers and governors, instead of opening the classroom windows and letting in fresh air and the facts, use bad law as an excuse for washing their hands of their duties.

These are real social evils. They must be ended and - Lady Young is at least right about this - the abolition of Clause 28 must follow. Dr MICHAEL HALLS
Christon, Devon

Sir: It was very disturbing to read comments by Baroness Young that still mistakenly promote the idea that Clause 28 of the Local Government Act prohibits teaching about homosexuality in schools. It has been confirmed once again by the Department for Education and Employment that Clause 28 does not apply to schools, only to local authorities.

Discussion of homosexuality in schools is not only perfectly legal, but urgently needed. We need improved discussion about homosexuality in all secondary schools if we are ever going to remove the current hostile climate that has already devastated so many young gay people. This discussion needs to take place not only with young people (whether gay or straight) but also amongst adults.

For those of us who are trying to help schools to become a safer place for young gay people, it is thoroughly unhelpful when others suggest that work we are trying to encourage is illegal. The debate should be about how best to have the discussions rather than whether they should take place at all. JAMES LAWRENCE
Development Officer
Aids Education and Research Trust
Horsham, West Sussex

Sir: If the Lords do block the overwhelming vote in the Commons to equalise the age of consent, they will certainly bring forward the day that they are reformed out of existence.

If the Government lies down and takes it, they must consider this: there are no votes lost from realising gay rights. It is not an issue that is important to the heterosexual majority; certainly not something that will cause them to change their vote. It is of prime importance to the gay community, however, who had massive confidence and belief (demonstrated at the election) in the Labour Party to deliver some fundamental changes in the area of gay rights. We are losing our patience and we will not forgive. BENET CATTY
London N2

Brake on US growth

Sir: In his gentle critique of my *Financial Times* article on the US economy, Gavin Davies ('How the US miracle might end', 13 July) concentrates entirely on points relating to the level of the private sector's deficit. And I agree with him that this deficit will not necessarily fall soon.

However, my major point related not to the level of the private sector's deficit in the US but to the fact that it has grown during the past six years by a larger amount than ever before. Between the first quarter of 1992 and the first quarter of 1998, total private expenditure (consumption and investment combined) rose 11 per cent more than income: it must have been this credit-driven expansion that has powered the "Goldilocks" economy since fiscal policy has been restrictive and net export demand sluggish. My concern now is that if the private deficit ceases to grow this will remove the impetus that has made the US grow so long.

I cannot see how the Goldman Sachs model can possibly predict continued growth in the US if the private deficit stabilises at 3 per cent, given that net export demand is now falling and fiscal policy remains restrictive. Where is the growth to come from? Professor WYNNE GODLEY
The Jerome Levy Institute
Annandale-on-Hudson,
New York, USA

Refugee doctors

Sir: Stephen Thornton from the NHS Confederation asks where the extra doctors for the NHS sought by Frank Dobson will come from ("NHS will have to find 7,000 doctors", 17 July).

A major part of the answer must, of course, be attracting back doctors who have left medicine or the NHS. Better use of the doctors who currently work for the NHS is important too.

However one of the simplest and cheapest things to do would be to make better use of refugee doctors already in the UK. Refugee and education and advice organisations are in touch with hundreds of refugee doctors eager to work in the UK, unable to return home for the foreseeable future and struggling for recognition as doctors.

Refreshing clinical skills (through classes and clinical attachments), improving English language and communication skills and orientation to the NHS will cost very little in time and money compared to the cost of training medical students from scratch. The General Medical Council and British Medical Association have shown willingness to change recognition procedures to make sure that competent doctors can practise.

Many refugee doctors come from communities currently poorly served by the NHS and would be willing to work with those communities. Some have distinguished professional records already and others have the potential to make a significant contribution. Previous generations of refugee doctors include Nobel Prize winners - Ernst Chain, co-discoverer of penicillin, for example. JOHN EVERSOLEY
Queen Mary and Westfield College
University of London

Sir: Presumably funds have been put aside to meet the litigation expenses that will inevitably follow the employment of Mr Dobson's 7,000 cut-price medical mercenaries? SAJ WAJED FRCS
London N6

Art of floundering

Sir: You say leading article, 17 July that Chris Smith has "floundered". Really?

In the past four weeks he has launched the £10m Youth Music Trust to help musical tuition for young people. He helped to broker the deal that has saved the Old Vic theatre. The National Lottery Act to reform how lottery funds are distributed has received Royal Assent. He has set up the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts, which will become a national bank for talent and bright ideas. With his blessing, Gerry Robinson has attacked a self-improving Arts Council.

Last Wednesday, *The Independent* reported "praise for Mr Smith for having persuaded the Treasury to give new money after a year of cutbacks" - £290m. Way above what anyone had expected, giving the lie to Chris Smith, the pushover in Cabinet.

Long may he flounder. MELVYN BRAGG
Controller of Arts
London weekend Television
London SE1

Overseas scholars

Sir: Andrew Buncombe's report (10 July) on the future of the Chevening Scholarships suggests that because the recipients are unnamed there may be something improper about the awards.

As director of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and executive trustee of the Cambridge Overseas Trust, which help to support more than 1,300 students from more than 80 overseas countries in Cambridge, I want to assure you that, as far as this university is concerned, these scholarships are only awarded to candidates who have applied in the

usual way and who, having satisfied the normal academic requirements against stiff competition, have been offered a place to study in Cambridge. It is only when they have been properly admitted that they are put forward for financial support.

In choosing who to support, the Foreign Office and its collaborators may, quite properly, apply other criteria relevant to the long-term interests of the United Kingdom and indeed to the needs of the countries from which these outstandingly able students come. Dr ANIL SEAL
Trinity College, Cambridge

'Dumped' children

Sir: Your report "Families dump adopted children in Hungary" (17 July) alerts us to the appalling possibility of adopted children from a post-Communist society being "dumped" back in their own country. This is a very worrying development for those of us who are concerned on a day-to-day basis about the welfare of children throughout the world.

Christian Children's Fund of Great Britain, which provides support for over 20,000 sponsored children in Eastern Europe and the developing world, is vigorously opposed to this kind of adoption. The removal of a child, who may have already experienced trauma and even abuse, from its natural environment and culture "to the fast pace of modern Western life" is to be regretted. Except in the rarest of cases, justified perhaps by medical necessity, international adoption cannot be the principal way of assisting Eastern Europe's deprived children.

What is required is to recognise the need to alleviate suffering and to offer children a radical and realistic alternative to institutional life, within the familiar surroundings and values of the child's own culture. Through local sponsorship programmes, the lives of individuals, families and whole communities are genuinely improved by tackling the root causes of such problems and not by avoiding them. ROBERT EDWARDS
Chief Executive Officer
The Christian Children's Fund
London EC2

Sir: The Americans seem to have discovered the ultimate in disposable designer add-ons: children. When the novelty value has subsided the solution is simple - return them as "damaged goods". This must surely vindicate the stand of the Romanians who not so long ago were vilified for trying to keep their orphan children within their own country, people and culture. RICHARD WILLIS
Duckington, Oxfordshire

Peril in the sun

Sir: Tony Hall (letter, 17 July) wonders why our hands and faces are not crawling with skin cancer as they are exposed to the sun for 365 days of the year.

Most of us work indoors for five days each week and this, together with our variable weather and

seasonal changes in ambient sunlight, means that we receive 50 per cent of our annual sun exposure on about 40 days of the year - sunny summer weekends and holidays.

On these occasions, we often expose other parts of our body such as our arms and trunk. Even so, in relative terms, our hands and face are "crawling with skin cancer" since the vast majority of skin tumours occur on these sites. Professor BRIAN DIFFEY
Regional Medical Physics
Department
Newcastle General Hospital
Newcastle upon Tyne

Baseless bonding

Sir: When I first read about American male bonding sessions where they charged about in the woods, stark naked, bursting into in tears and embracing trees, I gave a superior chuckle and thought, it could never happen here. How wrong I was!

I discover that firms - and even political parties - are wasting enormous amounts of time and money slavishly copying American "motivational" and "team-building" courses complete with cringe-making initiatives such as you describe in your article "Would you walk through fire for your boss?" (15 July).

The thought of mature people having to hug and kiss their neighbour (who may be profoundly unattractive) and literally to jump through hoops on a "pamper pole" in order to keep their jobs is disgraceful and should be ridiculed and condemned. J H FORSTER
Fittwick, Bedfordshire

IN BRIEF

Sir: I raise my glass to Nick Lezard's refreshing piece "Two pints of lager and a silly bat, please" (17 July) on the appalling attempts to apply the very worst post-modernist ideas to Britain's pubs. Efforts to re-create past fashions are inevitably doomed to long-term failure. Time, gentlemen, please, to apply the Third Way: modernisation (flexible hours and food are both progressive features) but based on sympathy for a traditional drinking culture. The British pub needs a saviour - let the Secretary of State for Culture get to the bar? STEVE GREENFIELD
Henford

Sir: You report that Neville Nagler, director general of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, had said that Holocaust survivors "are in the twilight of their lives" (*Home News*, 16 July). Please allow me to remind your readers that many of us are still in our fifties and sixties and hope to live another 20 or 30 years. So, unless Neville Nagler has inside information from our maker, please do not write us off yet. It is never pleasant to read of one's imminent demise. JACK SANTACROSS
Wembley Park, Middlesex

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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Why should the Church not get serious about sex?

"GAY VICARS in sex romp" - it is no coincidence that the caricature tabloid newspaper headline would fit over much of the reporting of the Lambeth conference. This once-a-decade gathering of Anglican bishops from around the world began at the weekend, with the issue of homosexuality the focus of attention. It has been argued that the 800 bishops of the Anglican communion ought to talk about God and His Works rather than be diverted by journalists' obsession with sex. But this is not simply a matter of what Tony Benn used to call the "Meejah" deciding what the issue should be for the church. For one thing, it is clear that the media interest in the theology of sex has been encouraged by the liberal wing of the church, especially in the United States. The same thing happened with the issue of women priests 10 years ago. No wonder the Roman Catholic Church tries to keep such strict control over its North American subsidiaries.

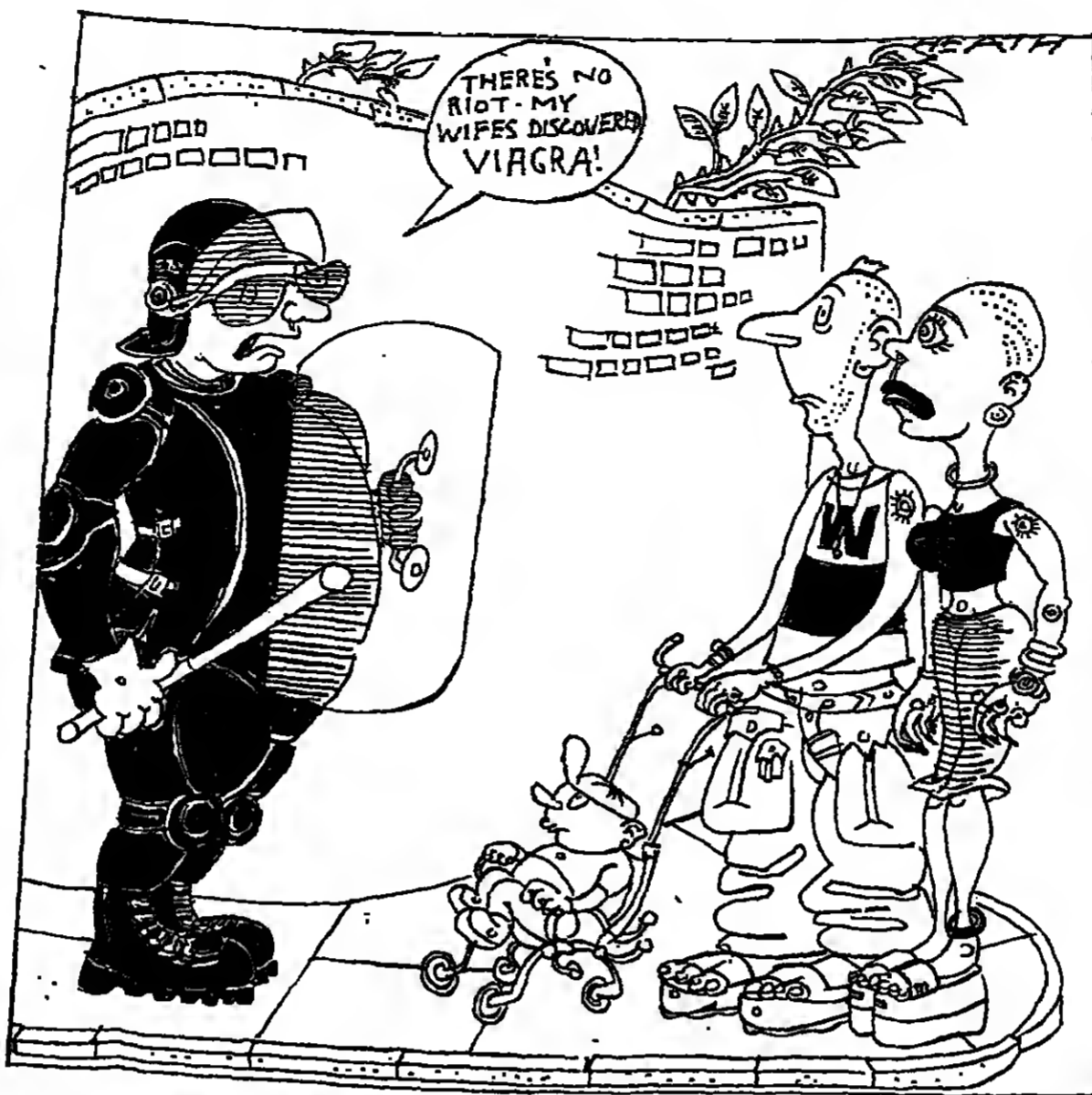
But equally it is not at all evident that an open debate about homosexuality is a bad thing for the Anglican church. It is patently divided on the issue, but a serious-minded discussion of a subject with implications beyond the narrow question of who should be priests could be relevant to wider society.

The impression sometimes given by Anglicans of being a marginal sect detached from ordinary life is heightened by the echoes of the early-Eighties Labour party. Not only does it complain about a media conspiracy, but the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, sounded like Michael Foot yesterday when he ruled out a change to the policy: "Homosexuals are welcome in the church, in the priesthood, in the working congregations," he said. Only they must not have sex, because party conference - sorry, General Synod - says so. Dr Carey made it as clear as he dared that he did not agree with party policy on this point.

And, to complete the analogy, here is Peter Tatchell, fresh from the Bermondsey by-election and demanding the impossible. What has it got to do with him, an Australian draft-dodger who we all assumed was a proper atheist until he got the gay religion?

Well, as long as Anglicanism is the state religion in this country, it matters to everyone. Even if the church were disestablished, it would still run many state schools. The funny thing is that Mr Tatchell is now on the right side of the argument, whatever anyone thinks of his tactics.

The debate on homosexuality touches on something much more fundamental than the camp cult of high-



church ritual or what men in cassocks get up to in private. Every major religion in the world is riven between fundamentalism and liberalism, between the revealed and the discovered. The issue of homosexuality, like that of women priests, points up this division. The letter of the Biblical text, which matters to fundamentalists, holds that homosexuality is wrong. The spirit of the New Testament message, which matters to the liberals, holds that it is the moral quality of relationships, not their sexual content, which matters.

Anglicanism straddles the divide more uncomfortably than any other church, which is why its debate is so pertinent. The Anglican church has as little claim to

universality as the "Catholic" one - like the Roman Catholic church, it is the legacy of empire, only of England's rather than Rome's. But, because the Church of England was, almost from the start, a compromise between revealed religion and the Protestant notion of the spiritual journey, it could act as a fulcrum for change towards a more tolerant set of values. Homophobia should not just be "resisted", as Dr Carey said yesterday, it should be roundly condemned.

If only church leaders in their debates in Canterbury had the courage to face up to this important debate, they could take it beyond media trivialisation into the ethics not just of church institutions but of society as a whole.

Culture is no excuse for kidnapping

THOUSANDS OF young women are brutalised every year by their husbands and yet, despite heightened awareness of domestic violence, we hear relatively little about it. Other young women are subjected to violence by their parents, and yet we do not call it child abuse because they are 14, 15 and 16, or even in their early twenties. They are abducted and forced to have sex with a stranger, and yet, because it is called an "arranged marriage", we tend to turn a blind eye.

We should be sensitive to cultural differences, but violence, coercive sex and kidnapping are always wrong. Liz Symons, the Foreign Office minister, draws a distinction between "forced" and "arranged" marriages in response to our report today. But the whole problem is that of coercion and she should say clearly that both partners in a marriage should take part on the basis of informed consent, which is perfectly compatible with some element of parental arrangement.

Baroness Symons should also re-examine the "primary purpose rule", which was abolished as one of the first acts of this Government. The Independent welcomed the move, because the rule was blatantly discriminatory in its application: Immigration Service officials were able to stop non-whites in particular from entering this country simply by declaring that the "primary purpose" of their marriage was to secure the right of abode here. But outright abolition has gone too far in the opposite direction, by allowing unwanted husbands from Pakistan to be forced on British girls simply to get them into the country.

The marriages of would-be immigrants must be checked, but it should apply equally to gay men who import female friends and non-consensual marriages among Muslims. And all would-be immigrants should have a fair and prompt right of appeal. It is a form of inverted racism to say that arranged marriages are a private matter: the misery of hundreds of young Muslim women should concern us all.

Behind the bike shed

ONE PROPOSAL stands out among the many leaked in advance from today's White Paper on transport policy. "The rebuilding of school bicycle sheds" is now added to New Labour's manifesto pledges. The vision is admirable. Children will cycle happily to school, breathing the clean air left by the abolition of the school run, accounting for one-fifth of car journeys. And then, no doubt, they will find other ways to pollute their lungs behind the new facility.

We'll keep the Brown flag flying from the house next door

POLITICAL TRACTS are not like ordinary books. The most significant are markers in time: they capture a moment when new directions are established and old ways discarded. The Blair Revolution, by Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle, is a funny old hotchpotch, a mixture of sound ideas and utter boken. But it remains the best summary we have of the hopes, instincts and aversions of the Blairites on the eve of power.

When I thumbed it from the top shelf at the weekend, I was struck by that surprise which comes of the discovery that something you regarded as cutting-edge contemporary has seamlessly acquired a coating of dust and a nostalgic air.

Here was a promise of a better, fairer Britain, achieved through a kind of re-evaluation of all political values and assumptions. Moulds were to be broken in the welfare state, education and health. The middle classes had no need to fear this particular revolution. Tony Blair was hardly a man to evoke Eisensteinian images of prams tumbling down steps in the maelstrom of change, and anyway, tax-and-spend has been nipped, drawn and quartered.

If a book were to be written now reflecting the present dynamic of New Labour politics, it would not be a sequel to Mandelson and Liddle, but a very different offering entitled "The Brown Revolution". For some time now, I have had a vague feeling that much of the Government's initiative has shifted from Number 10 Downing Street to the house next door. This hunch has been confirmed by the events of the last week.

Some chancellors sing from the same songbook as their prime minister. Others start to add a cappella harmonies of their own, which at first sound consistent but, as one listens, wander off into a different melody. Mr Brown and Mr Blair started out as harmonious as two of the Three Tenors, but the Chancellor's voice has started to dominate.

An act of stealthy political transvestism has occurred which shifts much of the initiative for driving forward the Big Idea in Government to Mr Brown - and thus ensures that the idea is redefined to a more recognisably Old Labour faith in the spending of public funds as the best way to improve public services. It may be that Mr Brown's concomitant demands for better performance will be heeded this time, when they never have been before. Or maybe not. And at these spending levels, it will be difficult to fulfil Middle England's trust in Labour not to raise taxes if a recession descends.

Mr Brown now drives economic policy, with little apparent input from the Prime Minister or his advisors and is making the running on EMU - fast and heading into it, but the shift goes beyond individual policies: it reflects a weighting of New Labour towards Mr Brown's vision of moderate socialism, most closely allied to John Smith's thinking and distinct from the more revisionist instincts of the Blairites. Public spending is a kind of cypher for this. The rehabilitation delivered by Mr Brown has put an end to promises of a thorough reform of the welfare state. It is unclear where all this leaves Welfare to Work, the

ANNE MCELVOY
If a book on Blairism were to be written now, it would not be a sequel to Mandelson and Liddle

flagship policy which united Mr Brown and Mr Blair.

American experience suggests that this policy is best driven forward by sticks, as well as carrots. But the emphasis has shifted from Government making "hard choices" to an air of relaxed largesse. The likely result is that the New Deal will turn into a very partial solution to joblessness, effective only in some parts of the country. The energy invested in this project is evaporating, the pace of expectation slowing.

Last week, No 11 hosted a seminar on Equality and whether this most potent word in the Labour vocabulary should remain the primary goal for the Left, or be replaced by notions of fairness, meritocracy and opportunity. This was the kind of think-in which used to be the preserve of the Number 10 policy unit, reflecting Mr Blair's status as the cornerstone of New

Labour. At Number 10 gatherings, the required conclusion was that equality was not the sole or most important guiding principle in seeking to improve the lot of the greatest number of people. At Number 11, equality still survives intact as Article One in New Labour's catechism.

In his first year at the helm, Mr Blair was seen as the driving force of an entirely new centre-left agenda, unconstrained by the pieties of the past. The exciting thing about this period - and the reason I wish it had lasted longer - was that everything was questioned. He had moved beyond the old left-right, Tory-Labour split. For the first time in Labour's history, the centre left sought ways to complement state activity through individual and communitarian endeavour.

Mr Brown has not changed in his view of the essentially benign nature of the state. The astonishing turnaround is not his but Mr Blair's. Readiness to reform child benefit used to be a key spot-the-Blairite test - not because supporters of Mr Blair enjoy scratching food from deserving children, but because it is plainly absurd that families on high incomes should receive an untargeted state benefit. But to, Mr Blair has now decided, in his Manichean distinction between types of benefits, that child benefit is simply "good".

It is not unusual for leaders to eschew big ideas and still achieve electoral success. Helmut Kohl, the longest-serving European leader, did pretty much nothing until the Berlin Wall fell, apart from inspiring confidence, that is. Perhaps Mr Blair considered that there was too much

risk in his radical thrust and that Britain simply needs him to be a good shepherd.

But he must also be aware that present developments bolster Mr Brown's power to a degree which threatens to become unbalanced and will make the day-to-day business of governing more difficult. Mr Blair intends the reshuffle to limit this danger.

So the Ur-Blairite, Peter Mandelson, is currently in a reshuffle cliffhanger worthy of *Eastenders* - and is not our very own Grant Mitchell, trouble-prone, abrasive, yet essential to the show? Without Lobbygate, he would probably have been given the job of enforcing policy across Whitehall. After the small earthquake swallowed up a number of his close political friends, it seemed more sensible to shift him to Culture, the better to stabilise the Dome and Millennium projects which are threatening to run out of control and thus out of money before the first stroke of midnight in the year 2000.

The extra weight Mr Brown has secured for the Treasury badly needs Blairite ballast somewhere - hence the rumours that Mr Mandelson will move to the Department of Trade and Industry. Stephen Byers and Alan Milburn, modernisers who share the end-of-term prize for Best Progress by New Ministers, will be promoted. The old lags who were included for the sake of party unity first time round will be purged. A perfectly Blairised crew will stare out from the Cabinet photograph. But the time they will dance to will, for some time to come, be Gordon Brown's.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Outside London, even moderately educated people have the pace and schedule of their lives dictated by Radio 4."
Fay Weldon, author, on BBC Radio's funding restructure.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The only people who remain misunderstood are those who either do not know what they want or are not worth understanding."
Ivan Turgenev, Russian novelist

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COMPPELLING TESTIMONY from those entrusted with the President's security diminishes the very purpose of their existence. Congress should act immediately to create such a legal privilege. To invite this and every future President's mistrust of those responsible for his or her safety is to invite tragedy. In an era when almost everyone in Washington, from Secretaries to secretaries, from diplomats to interns, delight in telling all through leaks or otherwise, cannot at least the Secret Service be secret?
New York Times

CLINTON and his detail have worked out a respectful relationship in which both sides know and follow the rules. And Clinton has cultivated the friendship of agents with parties and gifts. Should Clinton fear what they might say about him in the media, if not in the nation's courtrooms, after they leave? So far, none have sought to market their White House knowledge. Still, no written contract, or anything like Britain's Official Secrets Act, bars agents from spilling what they know.
LA Times

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
US reaction to subpoena of security staff in Lewinsky case

WHATEVER CLINTON'S obsession with women may be, it has been entirely superseded by Starr's obsession with Clinton. One nearly hopes that Starr's obsession is indeed ideological, because that's the only way it almost makes

seose. Because if Starr's defenders are right, that this isn't about ideology, then it is at best an obsession with law disconnected from any true interest in justice.

It's the obsession of a man of so little human empathy

that he can actually stand before television cameras and say about a sex act between two consenting adults that "there's no room for white lies, there's no room for shading the truth". If he can say this only because, in the eyes of the law, he's correct, then it's only as a cyborg of litigation that such a man is capable of existing at all.
Salon Magazine (Internet)

JUSTICE REINHOLDS move to reject the administration's request to block further testimony by Secret Service agents was hardly a surprise

given the unanimity in the lower courts that the Secret Service's fears were overblown and its claimed privilege was therefore uncalled for.
Washington Post

THE CLINTON administration has been unable to find a single judge who will agree that those agents shouldn't testify. There is very little chance that Clinton will ever find one. Instead, he may find that more judges are getting wise to the constitutional dangers that his legal and political maneuvers pose.
Washington Times

PANDORA

WAS THIS the scent of sleaze? No, it proved to be something far more sweet. Last week, one of Pandora's colleagues received a faxed invitation from Chancellor Gordon Brown to attend a drinks party at 11 Downing Street. In the upper left hand corner of the fax were the words "Hobsbawm Macaulay". Was this highly successful New Labourite public relations firm, whose clients include The Express, the New Statesman, and whose co-founder Sarah Macaulay is Gordon Brown's fiancée, receiving taxpayers' money to do PR work for the Chancellor? Exhaustive enquiries revealed that this was not a new chapter in Cronygate. Sarah was simply helping out her busy fella with a little free faxing. The 1998 version of a girl sewing on a hutton for her boyfriend perhaps?

NEW YORK'S conservative Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is refusing to condemn several top-ranking NY cops who are under suspicion after working in a midtown district where a "police brothel" serviced officers for 15 years. In the meantime, the puritanical mayor is forcing bars with topless dancers to adopt a draconian new dress code. Bikinis and T-shirts must be worn and though bottoms are banished. One Gotham bar-owner told the NY Post: "We have a lot of regulars, and for some of these guys it doesn't bother them if they don't see girls nude. But for some of them, bare boobs are like their morning coffee - they've gotta have it."

IN STARK contrast, London's sex entertainment scene is on the upswing thanks, in part, to Gillian Rees-Mogg, wife of former Times editor William. Elected a Tory councillor in Westminster last May, Gillian was appointed to the Licensing Committee. Recently she voted, along with committee chairman Kevin Gardner, to grant permission for table dancing and striptease at the Club Volante in Marylebone. This has caused an uproar amongst her fellow

Conservatives. "They have been in office ten seconds and they have made a decision that is one of the greatest blows ever for Marylebone," says Tory councillor Ian Wilder. Yes, but think of how many more New York tourists this may attract to Marylebone.

AN OFF-THE-CUFF comment from Labour MP Denis MacShane has come back to haunt him. He told *The FT* that cufflinks represented the worst of Thatcher's Britain because they "get in the way of hard work: you can't roll up your sleeves". His remark was picked up by a number of other publications. When Pandora rang him for elaboration, MacShane said: "I'm wearing a \$69 dollar suit and a trade union tie, so for me to be treated as a fashion icon is rather silly."

ON THE other hand, MacShane was keen to speak on the record about our Anti-Rucksack Campaign. "I couldn't agree more. I got a rucksack in the face last week on the train." Apparently, he was actually reading Pandora at the time. "It was incredibly ill-mannered. I think they should be made to pay two fares." But, he warns: "I'm concerned that William Hague may hijack this issue to claw back the fortunes of the Conservative Party." Here Pandora must remind the Labour MP that our campaign is strictly all-party.

NEW-AGERS who read about Cherie Blair's "bioelectric shield" pendant in yesterday's *Sunday Times* were nodding their heads sagely and whispering things like "I always thought she looked like one". It seems the locket is designed to ward off the evil eye of modern technology. However, close inspection shows it is a circle divided into five sides - almost a pentagram. The pentagram, of course, is notorious as the symbol of witchcraft.

MADONNA (LEFT) has changed her mind and decided not to take the lead in Sir Peter Hall's future production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, according to *Daily Variety*. But she is about to make her debut as a film producer this autumn. The script is based on the story of a young New York City university student who becomes a prostitute to pay her fees. Considering our government's plan to charge undergraduates tuition fees, it may soon also be a British story.

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Poetry, Britain's greatest export



RUTH PADEL
There is an extraordinary boom in British poetry and, luckily, British poets

WHAT DID the BBC use to end its World Cup coverage, in a golden voice-over bouquet of highlights, from Michael Owen's glowing thighs to Ronaldo's stricken profile? What are these new art-objects decorating a top City law firm, Marks and Spencer, and seven London bus routes? (A. 15, 19, 33, 73, 137 and 159, if you want to know?) What is the latest resident in London Zoo, as central to Britishness as the invisible geometric point from which Ian Botham launched 360 degrees of devastation among opposing fielders? What has Britain exported more of than football, cricket, custard or fair play?

Poems, that's what. Poetry. These days, in Labour's new Britain, poetry is making its presence felt through new residences - in law firms, Marks & Sparks, Kew Gardens and at the zoo - revealing that poetry's people-power lies not with the waffly, abstract kind of "poetry" one usually sees, nor the close-packed slim booklet, but with the solitary individual poem.

Lavinia Greenlaw has found that what lawyers like is one poem at a time flashed up on their personal

PCs. One poem recited in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* made W H Auden popular on a scale he had never been before. People who would never buy a book of poems swoon over a single item on the Underground.

What the one-off poem has over other works of art is that you can bring it out for five minutes when you're alone, open it like a lap-top and use it - that is, find significant new

meanings in it that you hadn't noticed before. I did a reading last week at Ledbury in Herefordshire. The next day, a woman who had kindly bought a book of mine, asked me to sign it.

"I couldn't ask yesterday," she said, "because your last poem reduced me to pulp. I had to go home and cry." I was desolated that it had upset her. But you can't help feeling grateful that a poem mattered so much to someone else.

Ledbury is Britain's newest Literary Festival. There are now so many - even London boroughs like Clerkenwell have one - that soon there will be one for every street. But they often marginalise poetry as "voices off". Ledbury, medieval heart of the Malvern Hills, meeting-place of ancient roads from every Cotswold town, has also made poetry a centre from which all roads, all interests radiate.

Ledbury Poetry Festival opened last Thursday with a fighting speech from Mark Fisher, Minister for the Arts, about the importance of poetry in cool Britannia. Ledbury has deep local poetry connections from the past. Langland, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and John Masefield

all lived roundabout. The Hospital Room of the festival offices is where W H Auden got married (no new sexual secrets here: he married Thomas Mann's niece to get her out of Germany).

These connections help the festival demonstrate how poems can bind people - past and present, celebrity and community - together. Prunella Scales reads old-favourite audience requests alongside front-line contemporary poets, like star surrealist Selima Hill. What poetry is now doing - and Ledbury has found new ways of helping it to do - is reach communities. Last week there were resident poets throughout the area, not just in schools, but in old people's homes as well.

This warmth between poetry and community has been building up for a long time. There is now an extraordinary boom in British audiences for poetry and, luckily, British poets. I went up on the train with Monica Alvi, one of the first well-known poets in Britain to explore the Pakistani side of her background.

"It's daunting," she said, "that there are so many wonderful poets writing today." People, she might

have added, who know they are putting formidable talent into a lifetime of making £12,500 a year - the average annual earnings of your average British poet, according to a recent study. "But it's also wonderful," said Monica, "to be a part of it."

Why, then, this poetry boom? My answer is the old one: bad politics make good art. Out of Stalin's terror came some of the greatest poets of the century, like Mandelstam and Pasternak. Italian city states in the Renaissance teamed with spies, corruption and torture: out of that came Michelangelo and Dante. And - to compare great with small - years of Thatcherism produced a raft of searching, profound, committed, accessible new poets.

Now that politics has changed, now Mark Fisher is promising poetry a bright future in a brighter Britain, maybe poets can make a bit more than £12,500 a year. Maybe the Government could ditch out performance-related bursaries to individual poets, for mattering to people? Not for making them cry, just simply hitting the spot. And what about a resident poet for the House of Commons?

Radio to tickle your brain as well as your rhythm stick



TREVOR PHILLIPS
In a fragmented Britain, the capacity to give a place to all parts of the nation is worth the fee

AS I write, the radio is playing what sounds like Wagner. It happens that I dislike Wagner, for aesthetic rather than political reasons, but either way, I find it hard to get excited about mythical maidens swimming around at the bottom of the Rhine. Fortunately, I don't have to put up with too much of what my operating pals call "warbling", since the music is part of a quiz.

It doesn't take a *Mastermind* champion to work out that this is one of Radio 4's upmarket offerings. If I had written that the warbling would continue for a few hours, you would know that it was Radio 3; on the other hand, if I had written that the music would probably be interrupted in a few minutes by an ad for Barclays bank, you would know that it was Classic FM. Radio stations these days all have their own voices, and it doesn't take much to work out which is which.

That is the point, of course. Unlike TV or even newspapers, there are dozens of stations for us, literally at the touch of a button. Survival in such a competitive jungle depends on distinctiveness: each radio station must attract its own hand of followers to justify its existence, whether to the advertisers or to the suppliers of licence-fee money. In a sense, radio preferences are not about programmes - they are about lifestyle. According to the Sunday papers, the BBC has paid consultants the usual barrowload of cash to tell it that many people are dissatisfied with some of its radio offerings. It would be surprising if this were not the case: with the cornucopia of choice, for which there is no additional cost, why would the traditional listener stick to one station, unless hypnotised?

Indeed, the same person may want to listen to both Radio 3 and Classic FM at different times of the

day; some young people may prefer Radio 1's speech programmes, but also listen to Chris Tarrant's Capital breakfast show. It is the sort of inconvenient thing that people do when offered choice. For example, I had the opportunity recently to hear a revealing report from Radio 1 on the inconsistency of sentences for drug offenders in different parts of the country. Its content, as opposed to its style, would not have been out of place on Radio 4.

The BBC's problem is that, unlike the commercial broadcaster, it has imperatives other than maximising ad revenue. We ask it to be popular, but we also ask it to provide for every minority under the sun, including minorities who want their listening to tickle their brains rather than their rhythm sticks. My opinion is, of course, very much *portus prius*. As the presenter of Radio 4's regular science programme, *The Material World*, I trade in demanding and obscure material, with guests whose brains are the size of Jupiter. We make matters even more difficult by telling the relieved boffins that the

audience does not expect them to sum up 20 years of rigorous study in 30 seconds, and to throw in a human-interest story and a joke at the same time. I understand that, in spite of this fact, we do have listeners, as does *Start! The Week*, which Melvyn Bragg's team has turned into a sort of Intellectuals Weekly, with well over a million listeners.

Recently, the BBC's *Windrush* season has clearly demonstrated that the BBC can do that other broadcasters cannot. Its range of programmes and promotions has given the African-Caribbean communities a new pride and sense of their own history. No other network could offer the same level of resource and attention as the BBC, both on TV and radio. In a Britain that is increasingly fragmented, the capacity to give a place to all parts of the nation is worth the fee.

I am, of course, also a BBC employee, and so might be regarded as biased. But think about it. Few of us who broadcast professionally would lie ourselves up with what we think is a dying concern. It is true - no one is offering me a million snappers to go to American TV (like my colleague, Martin Bashir, who presents Radio 4's new sports show), but all the same, you have to believe in something to put your name to it. The reason for me is that BBC Radio gives us something that no other medium can guarantee: a continuous, comprehensive and credible coverage of our nation's story, unswayed by the preferences of proprietors or narrow interest groups. It can avoid the pressure from the first by being publicly funded; and overcome the risk of imprisonment by the latter by the sheer breadth of its coverage, and the range of voices it offers.

If anything, BBC Radio could afford to be more bullish than it is.



Chris Tarrant's fans on Capital may be Radio 1 listeners too

The idea has got around that the BBC cannot hold on to the licence fee if it does not keep a certain level of audience share. It is obvious that if no one watched BBC TV or listened to any of its radio networks, that would be true; but we are a long way away from that prospect. The Murdoch organs, of course, have created a great deal of mischief, by pointing out that BBC ratings are in decline. They conveniently forget to point out that some two-fifths of the time, we watch BBC channels; and that, as a measure of value for money, ratings are less useful than what is now called "reach" - that is, the number of people who watch or listen at any point during the week. The politicians, of course have not missed the opportunity to put pressure on the Corporation to behave itself: they have spent

decades frightening BBC managers with veiled threats of shutdown. This is, of course, rubbish. There is no evidence of a widespread revolt at payment of the licence fee, and Sir Christopher Bland is probably right to gamble that his campaign for an increase will not frighten the horses.

There may be a case for putting any extra cash into the most embattled sections of the BBC operation. Radio 1 FM is clearly under siege from the many new music-based local radio stations which have enormous resources to play with because of their virtual monopoly in some cities. There must be a case for offering them more support just to stay on the map. But, that said, the BBC and the government have to bear in mind what the BBC is there for - not just to compete, but to serve.

Europe's commitment to global equity



PODIUM
GLENYS KINNOCK

From a speech by the EU's special representative for Cambodia to a Royal Commonwealth Society conference

ROME - THE flagship of European aid (the Lome Convention, under which European countries provide aid to former colonies) - has increasingly been perceived as having the word "Titanic" emblazoned on its bows. So now we are seeking to provide a strong and united voice which unequivocally rejects that view. Those who sneer at Lome, and who think of themselves as realists and modernisers, will continue to urge us to abandon outdated trade preferences and paternal relationships in favour of a more realistic accommodation of globalisation and all its implications.

Globalisation, I would contend, has both its winners and losers. In the last 15 years, the world has become more economically polarised both between countries and within countries. The negotiations on the Lome Convention, due to begin in September, provide a chance to develop a clear strategy on how to tackle the denial of basic rights to millions of people - nutrition, health education, the chance to earn a living and participate equally in this society. Poverty,

unemployment and social disintegration cannot be dealt with in isolation. We need a proper analysis of the nature of the steamrolling international system, of a "free" market economy, transnational, corporate sovereignty, and debt and structural adjustment.

How do we act to assure democratic decision-making, and institution-building, and increasing income generation, especially for women? How do we deliver growth with equity? The failure of "trickle down" has long been universally acknowledged. Now we face a more insidious philosophy, one which assures us that you can define social development purely in terms of economic growth. And that you can leave poverty eradication to the tender mercies of market forces.

In the North, freedom is often equated with the free market. But for millions of people, unfettered markets convey only the freedom to starve. The grotesque inequalities we see demand action, not privatisation, or indeed excuses. Problems, after all, do not need passports to travel around our world. And knitting safety nets onto a deeply flawed macro-

economic framework will most certainly not affect the world's rulers. No policies exist to ensure that growth actually benefits the poor.

New rules require new frameworks - to look beyond development to trade, to debt management, to private investment, capital flows, access to technology and the arms race. We will naturally need to both invest in social development and promote economic development of the kind which African, Caribbean

and Pacific (ACP) countries - which make up the Lome Convention - need.

We see a consensus in Europe developing around public health, public services, environment and jobs. If this is good for Europe, then it is good for those who have every right to expect a responsible attitude from Europe.

There is a need to create the right environment for investment in ACP countries, so let us acknowledge that a healthy, educated population, and one with technical skills, is what is needed: that is what the EU can invest in.

Gender equity must, of course be central to this process of investment in human resources; there must be a clear commitment to women's human rights and political participation. Gender mainstreaming has to be a priority and must be fully integrated into all our programme and project aid.

The negotiations must also include a strong emphasis on conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. As the world's largest trading bloc, the largest public donor of humanitarian aid, and the

second largest donor of multilateral assistance, the EU has a real potential to help prevent violent conflict. All too often, our development efforts are hindered or undermined by the persistence of internal conflict in partner countries.

The real challenge is to make a reality of the textual commitments we already have to conflict-prevention and coherence. There is strong support for this in the European Parliament and among some EU governments.

Our human-development objectives, our emphasis on poverty eradication and equitable development will need to provide for poor people and give them "a stake in peace". This will minimise substantially the risk of social instability and violence. Also, developing-country governments should reallocate resources to tackling poverty and crack down on corruption.

To conclude, let us not be persuaded that Lome is a story of failure. We have a fine set of ideals to work with, we have a vision which we must nurture and share. Let us steer that ship away from the iceberg!

For once, rain didn't stop play



JOHN WALSH
Galway, a town of galloping modishness, is as trendy as Barcelona in the late Eighties

A PRETTY quiet weekend, since you ask. Saturday night, I stood in a car park in driving rain under the looming dome of Galway Cathedral, on the west of Ireland, and watched the Titanic going down with all hands. It wasn't an open-air screening of the famous movie, but a brutal piece of German Expressionist theatre. To the accompaniment of random dockyard honks, foundry clangs and mad atonal doodlings, a dozen caricatures from Weimar cabaret-land proceeded to construct the great floating coffin, in a mock-up of the Harland & Wolff shipyard, then launch it, then sink it.

I'm not sure which of the characters I most warmed to: the mad captain with his whirling stiff-legged gait and Nosteratu features, or the improbably tall hunchbacked butler with the pot belly, dressed head-to-toe in a red Baby-Gro suit, or even the put-upon matelot in a white sailor suit who ran everywhere in a prancing, childish trot. Or perhaps - representing the First Class passengers - the fat sophisticated in the blue satin dress with an accentuated bustle, who drove onto the stage in a wildly-revolving Crazy Kar and later swung 60 feet above the audience in a bath of dry ice, shrieking. I expect you get the picture.

It was all frightfully avant garde and elemental. By the end, with the main funnel collapsing in slow motion, the rigging ablaze and jumping with fireworks, and 8,000 gallons of Corrib river-water being pumped at the performers by the Galway Fire Brigade, you'd stopped wondering when Leonardo Di Caprio was going to appear. Given the rebarbative lion of the show, the unscheduled falling rain, the smell from the foundry fires, the Chinese-water-torture music and the feeling that this must be what one's first view of Hell is like, it was surprising how many of the audience stuck around - even seemed to enjoy it.

But this is Galway, a town of galloping modishness on the edge of the Atlantic, a place that in the last 15 years has become as trendy as Barcelona in the late Eighties. The main thoroughfare, Shop Street, is newly pedestrianised now and every few yards you fall over a didgeridoo exponent or a harpist or



Mick Lally in Macnas's production of Patrick McCabe's 'The Dead School' at the Galway Festival

Joe O'Shaughnessy

someone having their hair braided, extended, streaked or henna dyed. The backstreets are crammed with bars called things like The Latin Quarter and the pavements stuffed with posey Galwegians, atitudinous beggars and cruising visitors from Denmark or Seattle. Beside The Quays pub, a weather-beaten guitarist with flourishing military whiskers displays a sign that reads, vaingloriously: "Ex-wife and 37 children to support. And Mobile Phone Bill to pay". Pickings are few, so far.

Nearby, a saturnine undertaker in a top hat solicits through a megaphone for punters to attend his toy theatre. I went along. Outside, a sign confusingly promised "Aladdin and his Lamp will be performed here every half hour on the hour". In a gallery by the Spanish Arch, there's a wishing-tree exhibit made of wishbones, where visitors are asked to inscribe their wishes in a book. One has written, "I wish I was a virgin."

A whole harem of swans is drifting on the Corrib, in whose depths you are startled to see a child's scooter, a blazing orange body with yellow handlebars, lying on its side with a kind of shocked stillness. Is it an exhibit?

The festival is a fine excuse for

any amount of open-air malarkey, especially yesterday's fantastic Carnival of Pools street parade by the world-beating Macnas gang, in their shockingly intestinal costumes. There are pub extensions, dalliances on the grass and local jokes. The best concerns a scandal surrounding the Circus of Horrors, a tasteful display of flesh-curdling orgies and topless vampires.

At one point in the show a bottle is brought on with a woman inside. She escapes, to reveal she's wearing a wig that covers her breasts but nothing else. Early audiences were shocked. The newspapers were shocked - "Raunchy Act Leaves Red Faces All Round" said The Mirror's Irish edition. "Who's Got The Bottle Opener?" leered the Star.

And the main sponsor, Nortal, the northern Irish telecom company, were embarrassed when they invited their top clients to a showing of the circus, only to hear a susurration of but-tutting when the lady with the bad habit appeared. "I can't see the problem myself," a Galway wag told me. "They just had the wrong sponsor. Shoulda been Blue Nun."

Alongside the arts festival, the film Fleadh has been pulling the crowds. For six days, the modest

Irish film industry has patted itself on the back and showed off its new productions, like Com Villa's *Sunset Heights*, a tough little movie about Derry gangsters. The organisers had the bright idea of inviting international film producers to come along and meet aspiring Irish film makers. And just like in Robert Altman's film *The Player*, where Tim Robbins spends his day listening to high-concept plot suggestions ("I see this as *Blazing Saddles* meets *The Exorcist*"), the producers found themselves being offered ever more ambitious ideas for movies.

It became clear there was a basic mismatch of intentions. The guys from Warner Brothers and Miramax had expected to hear charming local Irish scenarios, along the lines of *The Field* or even *The Quiet Man*, instead they got offered blockbusters. Where they had hoped for Mrs MacSweeney's *Magic Boy*, they were offered *Independence Day* meets *Twister*. Where they had expected *Ruthie Gulligan* loses his *Surprise*, they found themselves being pitched *Godzilla* meets *Armageddon*.

Rather than find, in the backstreets of Galway, a bunch of domestic amateurs with super eight

cameras and cautious dreams, they discovered a gang of would-be James Camerons with a taste for multi-billion budgets and a habit of asking, "D'ye think Bruce Willis might be interested?". Frankly, the producers would have been better off staying in Beverly Hills and listening to the locals planning variations on *The Full Monty*.

Wole Soyinka, the playwright, has been saying that Moshood Abiola, the Nigerian politician, did not die in prison of natural causes, but was poisoned. I knew that a week ago, when a Nigerian taxi-driver told me it was poisoned tea that carried Abiola off. And it's not the only toxic conspiracy theory around at the moment.

It's obvious to me that what did for Ronaldo in the World Cup final was not simply "convulsions", nor - as people have been saying - chronic diarrhoea, but a sachet of thallium in his pre-match isotonic fruit drink. I wouldn't dream of pointing the finger at anybody on the French team, but something must account for Jacques Chirac's attitude of personal triumph last Sunday.

William Hague's dubious sinuses never struck me as a sufficient reason for him to lie like a stricken

faun for nearly three weeks, if I were Special Branch I'd be rooting through his wheeled bin in search of a doctored Multi-Grain bar.

Meanwhile, President Milosevic of Yugoslavia is a natural target for the poisoner's art - so much so that he's been warned by ex-President Tito's former food taster, Colonel Branco Trbovic, not to sack his kitchen staff and culinary advisers just yet awhile, for fear of employing someone whose most characteristic dishes are best accompanied by a stomach pump.

In his day, said the Colonel, they had special testers to look for traces of explosive in the presidential cakes. They had toxicologists, epidemiologists, bacteriologists and radiologists standing by in the kitchens, where they would double as chefs just in case.

He was able to confirm that Milosevic has an official food taster these days. So, we gave to ask: Has Tony Blair got one? Has Mr Hague? Should there not be a whole new courtier-class of food-tasters in these dangerous times, who can be rushed in to safeguard the stomachs of those under threat?

I can imagine David Beckham applying for his very own taster any day now.

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANDREW KEENER



An independent record producer and keen Promenader replies to criticism of this year's Proms

ONCE AGAIN, it is knock-the-Proms time, and the disdain-mongers are wheeled out to provide soundbites for non-concert-going conversation.

There seems to be no pleasing Philip Hensher, who writes misty-eyed of premieres from past decades but complains that this year's BBC commissions are "keeping some boy-composers away from the horrors of paid employment". I don't know what Mr Hensher's idea of a boy is, but it is hard to square such discontent with the composers aged 31, 42, 44, 50 and 66 who fulfil this year's Prom commissions - the same age-range, incidentally, as the dream-team Hensher cites from his youthful Prom-going. All of which goes to show how nostalgia makes fools of us all.

Transplant the new Prom season, with its King Roger, Javanese Court Dance evening, its juxtaposition of Holloway with Scriabin, Vaughan Williams with Brahms, and Rihm with Brahms, to the as yet unbuilt showcase South Bank (or anywhere else in the world) and I suspect the artistic dinner-party circuit would gasp, kill for the overpriced tickets and write excited previews in *The Independent's* "Eye".

But the poor old Albert Hall just is not glamorous enough, is it? Well, it suits me fine. Which other sold-out festival concert could I turn up to at 7.20pm with my arena season ticket, easily slipping past the few rows of chanting musical stamp collectors near the front (whom many seem to think occupy the entire standing area)? Even better, the concerts are regularly sold out, unlike many other half-empty classical music venues these days.

I produce classical recordings for a living and I still adore music. After reading Philip Hensher's article, I hope I can be forgiven for wondering whether, as a fellow music professional, he still gets the buzz? Or is it only the past that is capable of giving him that?

No way to treat a friend

WHILE POLLS show a clear majority opposed to fox-hunting, 300,000 people march through central London in its defence. Passionate protest against the transportation of livestock claims its first martyr, Jill Phipps. Dolly, the cloned sheep, joins bizarre images of a mouse with a human ear growing on its back. McDonald's goes on public trial, and BSE is found to be the most expensive public-health disaster ever. As a political, social and cultural issue, it is clear, animals are here to stay.

Hilda Kean's book is a welcome reminder that such controversies did not spring out of nowhere. Whether the motivation of the protesters is to eliminate cruelty and unnecessary suffering (as in the influential work of Peter Singer), to promote animals' rights, or simply to defend the weak and vulnerable, as with the RSPCA, they all have striking antecedents in the previous two centuries.

Thomas Erskine, the radical barrister and parliamentarian, argued eloquently on animals' behalf in 1809, and the first legislation to protect them was passed 13 years later. The succeeding decades saw new acts, and new campaigns: the SPCA, the Vegetarian Society, Battersea Dogs Home and many more.

One of Kean's services is to correct Keith Thomas's earlier account in *Man and the Natural World* (1983), which relied heavily on imputations of urban and middle-class bias, sentimentality and nostalgia. Kean shows that, on the contrary, awareness of animals' plight increased while they were still very much a part of people's lives, including those living in cities. Individuals' acts were attacked or rewarded regardless of class. The campaigners' hostility did not stop at the behaviour of costermongers, butchers and slaughtermen, but extended to that of middle-class vivisectionists and brutal aristocrats.

If protest has deep roots, however, so does the entrenched interest in cruelty. The legislation to regulate vivisection



MONDAY BOOK

ANIMAL RIGHTS: POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGES IN BRITAIN SINCE 1800
BY HILDA KEAN. REAKTION BOOKS. £19.95

was only passed in 1876, 50 years after it was first condemned by the SPCA. A century later, three million experiments on animals take place every year in Britain - two-thirds without anaesthetics, and the great majority of dubious scientific or medical value.

Genetic engineering and xenotransplants look set to take over from physiology and biochemistry as an apparently unshakable new rationale for routine cruelty. An official blind eye is still turned: the company whose laboratory was horrifyingly exposed by a Channel 4 documentary last year has just been granted a new licence.

Similarly with hunting. A campaign to force the National Trust to obey its own charter and ban blood sports on its lands fails. The year is 1937. A poll finds 55.2 per cent of the populace opposed, a private member's bill the following year receives a second reading but fails to become law, and the League Against Cruel Sports amasses nearly a million signatures on a petition against hunting but is "unable to move the new Labour Government". 1998? No, 1948.

Equally hallowed, it seems, is the argument that the compassionate treatment of animals and people is somehow mutually exclusive. It can be,

of course, but there is nothing necessary about it. In fact, the links are equally strong between compassion towards both. The very word "humane" implies that cruelty towards other forms of life makes one less than human. Its centrality in the humanism of Montaigne (who famously hated cruelty to animals as much as to people) makes a poignant contrast to the brutal, narrow and arrogant techno-humanism that has become its contemporary heir.

Of course, as Judith Shklar has pointed out, the humane hatred of cruelty passed into liberalism, where it remains an important strand. But Kean's account makes clear the disastrous effects - for human and animal alike - of allowing science to take the place of individual and collective moral deliberation. Even socialists, to the extent that they were "scientific" about it, descended to crude, simplistic sneering at "sentimental cranks".

Kean's book is not perfect. Her prose plods, and like that of too many historians, it badly needs leavening with reflection. But it could hardly be more timely, and its wonderful material is bound to provoke such reflection. It is unfortunate, however, that she also repeats the ubiquitous dogma, among so-called modernists and postmodernists alike, that "a changing attitude towards animals... has owed little to animals themselves".

The absurdity of taking for granted who or what the changing attitude is towards should be obvious. But more insidiously - and no less so when unintended, on the part of someone sympathetic to animals - the effect is to marginalise them as relatively unimportant, as a mere background for the engrossing collective egotism of the human (but hardly humane) drama. In the end, this plays into the hands of the hunters for sport, vivisectionists, and purveyors of casual carnage.

PATRICK CURRY

MONDAY POEM

DESCENT
BY ROBERT GRAY

A white sail that is sharp
as a sabre tip
veers away beyond the spire
in the headland's shape,

and like a sword is shone,
as the car slips down
towards the bay
of a late afternoon.

It's the sail that's alone
with which I'm taken,
in the back of this car,
sunset coming on -

the one that seems to shun
others' congregation,
although walking there
in the fields of Heaven.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from 'Lineations', a selection of work by the Australian poet Robert Gray, published (price £8.95) by Arc Publications, Nantliffe Mill, Shaw Wood Road, Tadmarton, Lancs, OL14 6DA



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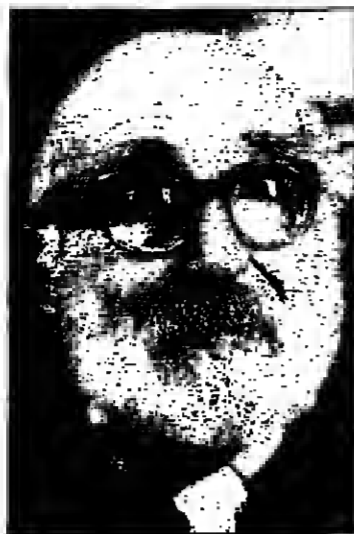
Hans Feibusch

OF ALL the many art exhibitions of the century, the exhibition of so-called "Degenerate Art" at Munich in 1937 is the most notorious – for its fervently political and racist bias and its anti-humanist spirit. But it was there, in a room labelled "Revelation of the Jewish Racial Soul", that Hans Feibusch suffered the most poignant rejection any artist can experience – the mockery and condemnation of the land of his birth, although he himself had already fled to England. With his death, however, a month short of his 100th birthday, the world has lost not only the last living link with the artists who shared the indignity and revulsion of Munich 1937, but also a great supporter of Anglican Christianity.

Feibusch was the elder son of a dental surgeon, Carl Feibusch, who had a comfortable practice in professional circles. The family, including a younger brother who was to be killed in 1929 by an avalanche at Klosters, was typical of many similar families at the time: as Jews, they attended synagogue, but they were also fully integrated members of the wider community and embraced the customs and loyalties of Germans.

After two years in the army (1916-18), with service on the Russian Front, Feibusch began studies as a medical student, but soon turned to the study of art – in Munich and Berlin, and later, after travel in Italy, in Paris where he exhibited at the Salon d'Automne and with the Paris Independents.

This experience of historic and contemporary art served him well and when he moved back to Frankfurt in 1925 he not only exhibited at all the major centres, but was awarded in 1930 the German Grand State Prize for Painters. The award, by the Prussian Academy of Arts, for his painting *The Fishmonger*, acknowledged the open nature of German artistic society. But things were soon to change. In 1933, at a meeting of an artists' group in Frankfurt, a new member jumped on the table and denounced everything Jewish. Feibusch understood



With his death a month short of his 100th birthday goes the last living link with the 'Degenerate Art' exhibition of 1937

the implications immediately, and left for England the same year.

Once in London the classical and sculptural qualities of his painting were noticed and he completed a number of murals for Ernst Freud, Michael Rachlis, Frankland Dark and, most notably, for Maxwell Fry at the Sun House in Hampstead. Work of this kind greatly impressed Edward Mills, sometime assistant to Maxwell Fry, and it was Mills who invited Feibusch to paint his first religious mural, at a new Methodist Hall in Colliers Wood, south-east London. The mural promoted favourable comment and when George Bell, the then Bishop of Chichester, was casting around

for an artist to work at a new church in Brighton, he accepted the recommendation of Feibusch.

These two men, the muralist who was a German Jew and the bishop who led the movement of reconciliation with Germany, first met on 1 January 1940; their association and mutual respect was to extend over many years, and it was dispute over Feibusch's designs for a mural at Goring-by-Sea that led Bell to sit in his own Consistory Court and deliver what is known as the Goring Judgment.

The judgment, recognising the integrity of an artist (and hence an artist's right to develop a scheme of decoration throughout an entire creative process from initial design to final brush stroke), released the Church from accepting the mediocre in its churches either in the name of liturgical propriety or, as was current at the time, in the misplaced belief that the best art was a literal representation of a biblical text. On several occasions Feibusch referred to George Bell as the finest man he had ever known, and it was owing to his influence that, after the death of his wife, he embraced Christianity and in 1965 was both baptised and confirmed in the Church of England, a faith he was to renounce in 1992.

After Brighton (a sequence of scenes from the Nativity story), Feibusch was to publish, in *Mural Painting* (1946), the most important text on mural painting since the Renaissance, and to complete over a period of almost 30 years work at 27 Anglican churches. Many of these sites were on the south coast (notably at Eastbourne – where there is a fine narrative from Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*; Chichester Cathedral – *Baptism of Christ*; and Paulsgrove, Portsmouth – where he painted an altar mural of *The Temptation of Christ*); he also worked in the west (at St Sidwell's in Exeter, notable for an Ascension which includes his family as one of the groups in adoration), in the north (at St John's, Preston) and in the Midlands (at Wellington and at Coventry).



Feibusch's *The Footwashing*, formerly at Colliers Wood New Methodist Hall in London

Most of his commissions, however, were in outer London and derived from Thomas Ford, who was War Damage Surveyor to the South-west diocese. Feibusch's mural style, light, airy, and using a Mediterranean palette, also acknowledged the continuity of the wall and complemented Ford's neo-classical architecture.

But Feibusch's supreme achievement was in the City, at St Alban the Martyr, Holborn, where his *Trinity in Glory* (1966) takes up the entire east wall of the church. It was a work that taxed Feibusch's resolve to the full. Mural painting is physically demanding – working in poor light high above the floor and on scaffolding with little safety protection

the once stepped backwards to view his work and landed many feet below, on much to his relief, the skin of a kettle-drum, and he was assisted by Phyllis Bray, an accomplished painter in her own right, who had also helped with many of his earlier murals, including a secular work completed in 1964 (comprising 12 panels depicting the history of Wales), in the entrance hall to the Civic Centre at Newport, South Wales.

In the 1970s, with failing eyesight, he turned to sculpture and later worked in pastels; in the early 1990s, deeply moved by events marking the Holocaust, his drawings revealed an agony and yearning for transcen-

dence. During the preview of his last exhibition, at the Collyer-Bristow Gallery in 1997, there was a memorable occurrence: in an empty room, the now diminutive Feibusch, resting on a couch, was approached by the tall figures of the German ambassador and his wife, who fell on their knees to address the artist. Feibusch responded with his customary gracious courtesy. For those who glimpsed this meeting there appeared an icon of a new age and the promise of a new century.

In 1985 Feibusch received an Honorary Doctorate at Lambeth, and in 1989 he was awarded the German Grand Cross of Merit; in 1995 a large exhibition of his work was

held at Chichester and toured to London (at the Ben Uri), to Northampton, to Eastbourne, and to Newport; and in 1996 a painting from 1939 with the title 1939 was purchased by the Tate Gallery and exhibited in January 1997. The entire contents of his studio have been transferred to Chichester, and will be reassembled by Pallant House Gallery for public viewing.

Paul Foster

Hans Nathan Feibusch, painter and muralist; born Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany 15 August 1893; married 1935 Sidonie Gestetner (died 1963); died London 18 July 1993.



Quilliot committed suicide on Friday at Clermont-Ferrand, the town where he was Mayor for more than 20 years

ON 14 July, Roger Quilliot called at the offices of *La Montagne*, the local newspaper of Clermont-Ferrand. He announced that he intended to resign as Senator, because of ill-health. He also gave the paper a long letter, written by his wife and himself, with instructions concerning its future publication. The news concerning his resignation was published the next day by *La Montagne*, and by the national press on 16 July. That evening Roger Quilliot and his wife poisoned themselves, and he was discovered dead the next morning, while his wife was taken to the intensive care unit of the local hospital, where she is now said to be recovering.

This was a sad end to one of the most attractive figures in the French Socialist party, someone who made his name both in local and national politics, and someone who was well known in university circles as a literary critic and historian of literature. He had been ill for some time and he did not wish to contemplate a future of suffering in hospitals, of being a burden to family, friends and society. This is how the Quilliot explains their decision to choose suicide, in their joint letter which *La Montagne* published on 18 July.

The career of the two Quilliot (who married in 1948) began academically, both having the distinguished qualification of *agrégé de lettres*. He taught in lycées (both his parents had been schoolteachers),

and it was when he was teaching French literature at the lycée of Angers that he took his first political appointments. In 1954 he was elected municipal councillor and became secretary of the departmental Socialist party, the Maine-et-Loire.

He had been attracted towards socialism since his days as a student at the Sorbonne, but he was in favour of a modern socialist party, and, while he knew and respected Guy Mollet, the then Socialist leader, he wanted the party to move forward.

During this time he was working on the writings of Albert Camus, whom he knew and who showed him certain of his private jottings. Camus also asked Quilliot to intervene with Guy Mollet, in 1956 when he had become Prime Minister, on behalf of a friend who had been arrested in Algiers for non-denunciation of a suspected nationalist. Quilliot also wrote a novel about the working class which he got Camus to submit to the publisher Gallimard, but it was refused. More successful was the essay which Quilliot published on Camus, in 1956, *La Mer et les Prisons*.

In 1963, largely thanks to his work on Camus (after the author's death, Quilliot had been entrusted with editing the author's complete works for the much-respected Pléiade editions), he was appointed to the University of Clermont-Ferrand, which became his political fief.

In the 1960s politics became more

intense. The return to power of General de Gaulle and the new presidential constitution of the Fifth Republic had led him to write a short account of the existing scene and to envisage what lay in the future. From 1964 he was one of the leaders of the Socialists as they began their dialogue with the Communists and he published a number of articles and pamphlets on the future possibilities of collaboration between the two parties.

Quilliot never forgot the day when he called on Albert Camus in the Rue Madame and Camus told him that his wife had tried to kill herself

He was always insistent that they should agree on principles and programmes. He said himself that in the 1950s, when having serious conversations with Camus, he noticed how he would lose his attention if some attractive young woman appeared on the scene. Similarly Quilliot would forget Marx and Bakunin when speaking to the Communists, and some social question came to the fore. His interest was in the welfare of people, and only in relation to that was he interested in the theoretical role of the state.

In 1974 he was elected Mayor of Clermont-Ferrand. In 1974 he became Senator. He became a leader of the opposition in the local sense because Giscard d'Estaing, then President of the Republic, was a prominent figure in the same department, the Puy-de-Dôme. He was closely associated with François Mitterrand, and he joined in the jubilation of his party when Mitterrand beat Giscard in the presidential elections of 1981. He was pleased with

Mitterrand's first prime minister, Pierre Mauroy. Like him, Mauroy had won fame as a local politician, being the Mayor of Lille and being preoccupied with the development of a region. He was also pleased to serve alongside Gaston Defferre, the Mayor of Marseilles and a strong believer in decentralisation.

Quilliot became Minister for Urbanism and for Housing and stayed as such in the three governments led by Mauroy from 1981 to 1983. He gave his name to the famous law on housing, La Loi Quilliot, in June 1982,

which protected those who were renting property from the exactions and excesses of landlords. It was a genuinely socialist measure and as such it caused an outcry among property-owners. When the legislative elections came in 1986, it was one of the main items on the Socialist list of achievements.

Quilliot chose not to stay in the government that was formed after the resignation of Mauroy. This marked President Mitterrand's abandonment of socialism and Quilliot preferred to return to Clermont-Ferrand. He was also discreet and loyal and he preferred to say that he had more power to do things working in the Mayor's office than working in a minister's office. But he was a very different man from Mitterrand and from those whom he met in his ministerial career. In Clermont-Ferrand he was known to be approachable, dismissive of the ceremonial, usually dressed in a raincoat, hard-working and honest.

He did not disdain national work, and in 1985 he became president of the national union of Habitations à Loyer Modéré (the equivalent of council dwellings). In 1986 he agreed to stand down as Senator temporarily, to be elected as deputy in order to bolster the Socialists, who were facing defeat.

In October 1991 he noisily resigned from the Mayor's office, protesting publicly against the way

that Clermont-Ferrand was being treated. In fact he disapproved of the then Prime Minister, Edith Cresson, very much the personal choice of President Mitterrand. He also protested against government by the young graduates of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, a protest which found a wide echo.

Having received some satisfaction from Cresson he resumed his mayoral office and in 1993 he had the great satisfaction of beating Giscard d'Estaing in the local elections, the ex-President having expressed his determination to become mayor as a crowning climax to his career.

Madame Quilliot, formerly Claire Trougnac, was an ideal partner. She has written herself and together they wrote a study of the Socialist leader Roger Salengro, who had committed suicide when a minister in Léon Blum's Popular Front government. Quilliot never forgot the day when he called on Albert Camus in the Rue Madame and Camus told him that his wife had tried to kill herself. The idea of suicide seems to have haunted the Quilliot. His was a courageous intellectual act, carried out by a politician about whom everyone speaks well.

Douglas Johnson

Roger Quilliot, writer, teacher and politician; born Hermoville, France 19 June 1925; married 1948 Claire Trougnac (two sons); died Clermont-Ferrand, France 17 July 1993.

Zoe Karelli

ZOE KARELLI was one of the foremost women poets of Greece this century. As poet, essayist, playwright and translator, she played a part in the cultural transformation of Thessaloniki, Greece's second city, into the pioneering capital of Modernism in the arts during the inter-war period, and was throughout her long life a vigorous defender of both the second city and the "second sex". Despite maintaining a deliberately low profile in public, she was a regular contributor to all the Greek literary periodicals for more than half a century, and it is said that she was even considered for the Nobel Prize for literature.

She was born Chrysoula Pentziki in Thessaloniki in 1901, a citizen of the Ottoman Empire. The city became part of Greece in 1912, and since then Thessaloniki has vied with Athens in both culture and commerce (to be designated "cultural capital of Europe" in 1997). The lit-

erary periodicals in which Karelli published her first poems and stories, such as *The Third Eye* and *Macedonian Days*, were in the van during the 1930s in bringing experimental, Modernist ways of writing into Greece.

In 1940, on the eve of Greece's entry into the Second World War, Karelli published her first poetic collection, *Forein* ("Transit", or "March"). After the war she published no fewer than nine poetic collections during the 1950s, and her definitive two-volume *Poems* came out in 1973. In the 1960s she turned to the theatre, and applied in Greece some of the lessons learned from translating T.S. Eliot's *The Family Reunion* (as early as 1948), with poetic dramas on subjects derived from the Old Testament, ancient Greek tragedy, and the Byzantine tradition.

Karelli is credited with over a hundred essays in scattered periodicals.

The second volume of her selected essays appeared in 1994, and testifies to a sharply critical eye and an unabashed, uncompromising willingness to stare such perennial gorgons as death, faith, and language in the face and survive. The style of

For Karelli, a woman poet is not a poet who happens to have been born female, but a poet who sees and experiences the world and language in a gendered way

her poetry is uncompromising too, avoiding lyricism and grounded in an almost tangible sense of language. Words, for Karelli, as for other Greek writers of her generation, are not merely for talking about the world: they make a world, and so

have almost talismanic properties. In her later years her reputation was perhaps overshadowed by that of her brilliantly eccentric younger brother, Nikos Gabriel Pentzakis, who died in 1992. Pentzakis was probably the only

writer of that generation, among those whose life and work was inseparable from Thessaloniki, who achieved a secure reputation in the wider world of Greek letters and in academia, and his novels and poems have undergone a revival in the

1980s and 1990s. By contrast, his sister was never as provocatively hard to understand in print, or as conspicuous a figure in public. But the underlying themes of much of her writing have a close affinity to his: a sense of place, an unbending reverence for the Greek language, an unflinchingly "cold eye" (in W.B. Yeats's term) cast on death, and a determination to hunt out those things which transcend it.

Along with her near contemporaries Maria Polydouri and Melissanthi, Zoe Karelli was indefatigable in claiming a space, and a distinctive voice, for women writers in Greece. For Karelli, a woman poet is not a poet who happens to have been born female, but a poet who sees and experiences the world and language in a gendered way. In this she has been highly influential in a country where at the time of her birth a woman writer was an exceptional oddity,

but today so many of the best writers are women.

In recent years, the Greek language has had to adjust to the presence in women not just in poetry but in other formerly male domains. As a result, many words for professions, that used to be grammatically masculine, may now be preceded by articles and adjectives in the feminine form. It was Karelli, in a now famous poem of 1957, who paved the way for this linguistic change, by prefacing the feminine article, not to a term for a profession, but to the word for "human": *anthropos*.

In another poem of the same year, Karelli puts this statement into the mouth of Eurydice, whom the (male) poet, Orpheus, tried and failed to bring back from the dead: "I remain far from you, / because the separation of death / is so complete / that no living mortal / can ever learn it." But death, in that poem that is almost half a century old, is something



more: "I remain far from you," Eurydice continues, "because I have learnt / the worth of death."

Roderick Beaton

Chrysoula Pentziki (Zoe Karelli), poet, essayist and playwright; born Thessaloniki, Greece 4 August 1901; married (two sons); died Thessaloniki 16 July 1993.

Sir Desmond Heap

PERENNIAL YOUTHFUL, immaculately dressed, one hand in the double-breasted waistcoat, a monocle hanging round his neck, to be played with, but rarely used for its primary purpose. Desmond Heap could have made a resounding success as an actor, and indeed had a keen interest in amateur dramatics in Sevenoaks where he lived. Equally in the law, he would surely have risen to the higher ranks in the Bar and judiciary.

As Comptroller and City Solicitor to the Corporation of London for 26 years he was closely and famously involved in the selling and export of London Bridge to an American oil corporation. The son of an architect in Bury, he had read Law at Manchester University and had become the wartime Deputy Town Clerk of Leeds, he was expected to become Town Clerk of London, but Edward Nichols, Town Clerk of Derby, was appointed. Looking back at what must have been a disappointment at the time, I have often thought that this turn of events may have released energies and provided opportunities which the town clerkship would have precluded.

Heap travelled to foreign parts at the Government's request, drafting town planning legislation for emerging states. He was then invited to speak abroad and travelled the world. (Once, when I was in South Africa visiting town planners there, Heap turned up to wish me well, preparatory to leaving to board the Blue Train. He was clad in immaculate cream shorts.)

Above all, he had the time and energy to pursue his ambition to become President of the Law Society, a position of honour for which he was well suited. However, the honour he treasured most was the award, in 1983, of the Gold Medal of the Royal Town Planning Institute. It is but rarely given, and the emotion of the moment almost overcame him. It was he who, as President of the Institute in 1955, put in motion the process which led to the Institute's becoming entitled to call itself the Royal Town Planning Institute.

It is half a century since I first met Desmond Heap. At the time he was stomping round the country, under the auspices of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, to explain to the uninitiated the mysteries of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947. He did so with style and clarity. Wisely (or he never missed a trick), he was supported by W.A. Wood from the ministry, who knew all the answers. If any questioner bowled a googly, Heap would modestly and gracefully ask that Wood should reply.

The Act of 1947 introduced many totally new and complex concepts. Development possibilities were to be bought out by the Government with limited compensation. Owners had to register their claims with the Central Land Board. If they got permission to develop, a development charge had to be paid. Lawyers and surveyors were fortunate to have, in Desmond Heap, a local government solicitor who could explain all this in layman's language, and write about it with great clarity.

Indeed, when in later years I thought it was time that I should further my reputation by writing a textbook, and turned my thoughts to my favourite subject, town planning, I soon found that Heap had written them all already. He was the author of some 15 works on the

When I thought it was time I further my reputation by writing a textbook on my favourite subject, town planning, I found that Heap had written them all already

subject, including the five-volume *Encyclopaedia of Planning Law and Practice* (1960). He had a corner in the market.

In the late 1950s, I was invited to sit on the Town Planning Committee of the Law Society. Heap was its chairman of long standing. The meeting in the Law Society's hall was followed by lunch. Desmond Heap was nothing if not a bon vivant, and food and drink had to reach acceptable standards. If not, the unfortunate catering manager, Monsieur Borvin (surely he invented that), would be summoned.

In the same period, I was asked to prepare a paper on compulsory purchase for delivery to the joint summer conference of lawyers and surveyors. We were a triumvirate - Heap, Stuart Lloyd Jones, then Town Clerk of Plymouth, and myself. After a few preliminary



meetings it was agreed that I would write a draft. When we met to consider my offering, Heap said nonchalantly, "This is all very good. But when I deliver it, I shall, if you all agree, shorten it slightly." As the writer, I felt a twinge of chagrin but reminded myself that many are called but few are chosen. Heap, of course, delivered the paper brilliantly.

Heap worked hard on his written works - the walls of his London flat in the Barbican were lined with shelves bearing hundreds of manuscripts and drafts of his books, speeches and articles - and he amazed me at his assiduity in keeping abreast of the law, even when in his eighties. In his contacts with others he had the common touch.

I took it as a great compliment when a friend once described me as "A poor man's Sir Desmond Heap". He was a man

we all admired and for whom I had a great affection.

John Boynton

Desmond Heap, solicitor: born 17 September 1907; Lecturer in the Law of Town and Country Planning and Housing, Leeds School of Architecture 1933-47; Prosecuting Solicitor for City of Leeds 1935-38; Chief Assistant Solicitor 1938-40; Deputy Town Clerk 1940-47; Comptroller and City Solicitor, Corporation of London 1947-73; member of Council, Town Planning Institute 1947-77; President 1955-56; member of Council, Law Society 1954-78; Chairman, Law Reform Committee 1953-60; Chairman, Town Planning Committee 1964-70; President 1972-73; KI 1970; married 1945 Adeline Lacey (one son, two daughters); died 27 June 1998.

POLITICAL NOTES

KEN COLE

Socialist development Cuban style

RECENT POLICY changes to maintain socialist development in Cuba have been unprecedented since the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista on 1 January 1959. The US economic blockade began in July 1960, and links with the now defunct East European Communist bloc have been an economic lifeline. However, the collapse of Comecon in 1991 reduced imports by over 80 per cent, and the global social product of the Cuban economy plummeted by 25 per cent in 1991. The US was not slow to take advantage of Cuba's predicament and enacted the Torricelli Bill (1992), and the Helms-Burton Act (1996), to further squeeze the Cuban economy.

Caught between the decline of a one-time ally, and an implacable foe, few thought that Cuba would survive: now few doubt it. By 1994 there was economic growth of 0.7 per cent, 2.5 per cent in 1995, 7.8 per cent in 1996, with a decline to 6 per cent in 1997. Why did Cuba out-perform the other ex-Communist states "transition" to market principles? Cuba was never a Caribbean outpost of the Soviet empire, and development strategy has been oriented towards economic independence: industrialisation to escape sugar dependency whilst extending the socialist ideals of the Revolution.

In this regard Cuba adapted to the exigencies of the world economy while developing processes of political participation. With the US economic blockade Cuba turned to the Soviet Union, while simultaneously developing forms of participative democracy. By 1973 central planning, based on the Soviet system, was introduced, which complemented Cuba's inclusion into the Communist trading bloc, the CMEA. In an effort to democratise central planning, and adapt it to Cuba's political agenda, participation was institutionalised in "Popular Power", a system of democratic representation based on the community. However, Cuba in the CMEA could not escape sugar dependency, and political participation was constrained by centralised planning.

It became apparent that "quantitative" economic planning was not commensurate with "qualitative" political participation, and Cuba entered a period of "Rectification". Centralised planning was ended for political reasons, but an alternative



Batista: overthrown in 1959

process of economic co-ordination was stymied by the collapse of the Soviet bloc: and in 1990 Cuba entered a "Special Period in Time of Peace".

The Special Period had to address the world market. Hitherto Cuba had exported sugar and imported food, and self-sufficiency was high on the agenda. Industrial strategy emphasised biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, with all other sectors except the armed forces and education open to foreign investment. Tourism also developed. Cuba now has more tourist beds than the rest of the Caribbean.

The shortages of the Special Period saw an increase in black market activity, trading in illegal dollars, and in which everyone had to engage to survive. With cheap prices, an average monthly salary of 240 pesos, and a dollar exchange rate of 23 pesos, people with access to dollars - remittances from relatives in the US, taxi drivers, workers in the tourist industry - are better off than teachers, professors, doctors and other professionals. In a society where a premium is placed on education and public service, this has created social tensions and disillusionment. However, in the austerity of the Special Period, spending on health (longevity is 75 years), education (class sizes of 26) and welfare (everyone is guaranteed a pension) has actually increased. This makes Cuba unique among developing countries, and perhaps the world.

Ken Cole is the author of *Cuba: from revolution to development* (Pinter, £45/£15.99)

GAZETTE

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales opens the British Airways new Corporate Headquarters at Waterside, Heathrow, London. The Duke of York participates in The York Challenge Cup in aid of Children in Crisis, and presents the prizes, at Wentworth Golf Club, Virginia Water, Surrey; and presents the prizes at the Tesco Pro-Am Golf Classic Challenge in aid of the British Deaf Association at the RAC Club in Epsom, Surrey.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

LECTURES

Wallace Collection: Christy Phillips, "Images of the Kings of France", 1pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial Services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (Notice of marriages, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please always include a daytime telephone number.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Christopher Benson, Chairman Royal and Sun Alliance Group, 65; Professor Sir John Dacie, haematologist, 86; Mr Jacques Delors, former president, Commission of the EEC, 73; Mr Desmond Douglas, table tennis player, 43; Sir Antony Driver, former chairman, South West Thames Regional Health Authority, 78; Mr Elwyn Eilledge, chartered accountant, 63; General Sir Jack Harman, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, 78; Mrs Sylvia Heal MP, 56; Sir Edmund Hillary, mountaineer, 79; Mr Charles Hodson, television reporter, 43; Miss Sally Ann Jones, actress, 69; Mr Roger Hunt, footballer, 60; Mr Edward Leigh MP, 48; Mr John Lodge, rock musician, 55; Mr Charlie Magri, flyweight boxer, 42; Mr Jonathan Morris, actor, 38; Lord Palumbo, former Chairman, Arts Council of Great Britain, 63; Sir Jeffrey Petersen, former diplomat, 78; Mr Walter Plowright, microbiologist and veterinary surgeon, 75; Mr Michael Quinn, chef de cuisine, 52; Mr John Rees, director, Harrow Foundation, 55; Dame Diana Rigg, actress, 60; Mr Ted Rogers, comedian, 63; Viscount Slim, deputy chairman, Peek plc, 71; Mr Vilem Tausky, former director of opera, Guildhall School of Music, 88; Miss Elizabeth Tucker, former Head Mistress, Headington School, Oxford, 62.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Petrarch (Francesco Petrarca), scholar, lyric poet and humanist, 1304; Hyacinthe Rigaud (Hyacinthe-François Honorat-Mathias Pierre-Martyr Andre-Jean Rigau y Ros), portrait painter, 1659; James Harris, grammarian, 1709; Thomas Lovell Beddoes, playwright and poet, 1803; Sir

Richard Owen, palaeontologist and biologist, 1804; John Sterling, writer, 1808; Francesco Chiaromonte, composer and teacher, 1809; John Augustus Day, playwright and theatrical manager, 1838; Max Liebermann, painter and actor, 1847; Margaret McMillan, politician and educationist, 1860; Erik Axel Karlfeldt, poet and lyricist, 1864; Joseph-Marie Deodat de Severac, composer, 1873; Alberto Santos-Dumont, aviator, 1873; Sir John Charles Walsham Reith, first Baron Reith, first Director-General of the BBC, 1889; Theda Bara (Theodosia Goodman), actress, 1890; Morris (Maurice) Leyland, cricketer, 1900; James (Jimmy) Kennedy, popular music composer, 1903; Dame Cicely Veronica Wedgwood, historian, 1910.

Deaths: Robert II, King of France, 1031; Hugh O'Neill, second Earl of Tyrone, Irish nationalist, 1616; Professor John Playfair, mathematician and geologist, 1818; Caroline Anne Southey (Bowles), poet and wife of Robert Southey, 1854; Carl Ludwig Emil Aarestrup, poet, 1856; Henri Jean Augustin de Braekeler, painter, 1888; Sir Richard Wallace, founder of the Wallace Collection, 1890; Jean Ingelow, poet, 1897; Pope Leo XIII, 1903; Andrew Lang, scholar, author and fairy tale editor, 1912; Guglielmo Marconi, inventor, 1937; Sir Dan Godfrey, conductor, 1939; Colonel Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, soldier, executed, 1944; Ambrose Paul Toussaint-Jules Valery, poet and philosopher, 1945; King Abdullah of Jordan, assassinated 1951; Iain Norman Macleod, statesman, 1970.

On this day: Euston Station, London, opened, 1837; Charles Sturt, explorer of Australia, entered Simpson's Desert, 1945; Marshal Osman Nuri Pasha, Turkish commander, beat back the Russ-

ian attack on Plevna, Bulgaria, 1877; Oscar Slater's conviction and imprisonment on 25th May 1909, (due to mistaken identity) was quashed, 1928; Franz von Papen by a show of force, removed the Socialist premier of Prussia, 1932; the XIII Olympic Games opened in Berlin, 1936; at a meeting in Rastenburg, Germany, Colonel von Stauffenberg attempted to assassinate Hitler by planting a bomb, 1944; the Peace Conference began in Paris, 1946; in Indo-China, an armistice was signed under which Vietnam was divided into North and South, 1954; the musical show *Stop the World - I Want to Get Off* was first produced, London 1961; Turkish forces invaded northern Cyprus, 1974; the space probe Viking 1 separated its Lander which made a soft landing on Mars, 1975; ten soldiers were killed after IRA bombs exploded in Hyde Park and Regent's Park, London, 1982.

Today is the Feast Day of St Ansgar, St Aurelius of Carthage, St Elias of Jerusalem, St Flavian of Antioch, St Gregory Lopez, St Joseph Barsabas the Just, St Margaret of Antioch, St Wilgefortis or Liberata, St Wulmar.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England

The Rev Russell Avery, Rector, Lane Cove St Andrew, Sydney, (Australia); to be Priest-in-Charge, The North Pusey de Cais Chapel, France (Europe); The Rev Canon Kenneth Banks, Priest-in-Charge, Norwich St Stephen, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Norwich); to be Priest-in-Charge, Cragford with Cotney and Easingwold (same diocese); The Rev Alan Boddie, Chaplain, HMP Highdown; to be Chaplain, HMP Wormwood Scrubbs; The Rev Simon Cade, Curate, Colne and Blackland (Salisbury); to be Team Vicar, Basingstoke (Winchester); The Rev David Caswell, Chaplain, HM Wolds Remand Centre; to be Vicar, Clifton St Philip and St James (York).

CASE SUMMARIES

20 JULY 1998

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Young offenders

R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex p J & anr; QBD (Crown Office List) (Collins J) 3 July 1998. ALTHOUGH THE welfare of a young offender was an important factor in the balancing exercise which had to be carried out by a Secretary of State when deciding where a young offender was to be detained under s 53 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933, he also had to have regard to the need for punishment and the need to maintain the confidence of the public in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, he was entitled to take into consideration the fact that there was only a finite number of places for young offenders in child-care establishments.

Richard Gordon QC, Ian Wise (Clyde Chappell & Botham, Solicitors for the applicants; David Pannick QC, Michael Fordham (Treasury Solicitor) for the Secretary of State.

VAT

Morat v Commrs of Customs and Excise; QBD (Collins J) 22 June 1998. A VAT appeal was remitted to the tribunal for reconsideration because it was not clear whether the two-stage test for estimated "best of judgment" assessments had been properly applied. Whilst the assessment was made to the best of Customs and Excise's judgment, the taxpayer had not been given an opportunity to give evidence for the tri-

tunal to form an opinion as to the amount. The taxpayer in person: Philippa Whipple (Solicitor; C & El for the Crown).

European law

Passmore v Morland plc & ors; Ch D (Laddie J) 8 July 1998. THE STATUTORY prohibition in Art 85(1) of the EC Treaty operated periodically so that it could be turned on and off depending on the surrounding facts. Therefore, when contractual provisions were not incompatible with Art 85(1), the automatic nullity of Art 85(2) did not apply. That was consistent with the provisions relating to the illegality of agreements falling within Art 85, in that the Commission could only impose fines for the period during which a particular agreement offended against Art 85(1), but could not fine in respect of a previous or subsequent period where it did not so offend.

Mark Brealey (Malland Walker) for the plaintiff; Nicholas Green QC (Kimbell & Co) for the first defendant.

Costs

Young v Young; CA (Butler-Sloss, Thorpe, Chadwick LJ) 14 July 1998. WHERE A judge made an order nisi in respect of costs following contested ancillary relief proceedings, it was incumbent upon any party that desired to take advantage of the liberty to apply to do so promptly whilst the case was fresh in the judge's mind. It required no formality. The advocate who wished to apply had only to arrange a date convenient to the judge and to his opponent.

Nicholas Mostyn QC (Philip Skerrett & Co) for the appellant; Mark Johnstone (Paris Smith & Randall, Southampton) for the respondent.

Consumer credit

Worcester Lease Management Services Ltd v Swain & Co; CA (Kennedy LJ, Sumner J) 14 July 1998. A DEFAULT notice served pursuant to s 87(1) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 had to set out precisely what was needed to be done to put right an alleged breach of a hiring agreement. Therefore, if the amount claimed by the creditor to remedy non-payment of rental was in excess of the sum necessary to remedy such a breach, that default notice would be invalid. Trustram Hodgkinson (Anthony W. Jeremy & Co, Cardiff) for the appellant; John Gruffydd (Watkins & Co) for the respondents.

Conflict of laws

Domicrest Ltd v Swiss Bank Corp; QBD (Commercial Ct) (Rix J) 8 July 1998. WHERE AN action for negligent misstatement was brought, the place where the harmful event occurred for the purposes of Art 5 of the Lugano Convention was, by analogy with the tort of defamation, where the misstatement originated. Moreover, there was no distinction between a written document and an oral or other instantaneous communication, since the representative's negligent speech, rather than the hearer's receipt, best identified the harmful event which set the tort in motion. Craig Orr (Stephenson Harwood) for the plaintiff; Graham Dunning (Holman, Fenwick & Williams) for the bank.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
tawdry, adj.

A JUDGE for the Miss New York contest was reported last week to have lost her place on the panel after she referred to one entrant as looking "tawdry". What a pity she had not chosen the word *tawdry* instead.

Tawdry comes from St Audrey, also known as Etheldreda, a seventh-century abbess of Ely who

died of a breast tumour which she blamed on her having worn necklaces of jewels as a child.

The word was originally used as part of the phrase

Tawdry lace, a silk necklace worn by women in the 16th century in place of jewels to avoid the fate of St Audrey.

Had our New York beauty contest judge used the word *tawdry* instead of *trashy*, she might therefore have claimed that she was simply referring to the young lady's saintliness.

REAL BRITANNIA

What does it mean to be British? PART ONE

VOX
BRITANNIA

How British Are You?

Brian Stowe, 64, retired policeman, Exmouth
I suppose the British characteristic I most identify with is a reluctance to show emotion: all that stiff upper lip stuff. I don't go in for hype at all. I prefer a bit of restraint and moderation. I do feel national pride very much.

I suppose tolerance and kindness are the things I find particularly important in British culture: tolerance towards religion, political persuasion – that sort of thing. In general, we don't get steamed up about things in the way some other countries do.

I do feel more English than British. I remember when I was at school we had Empire Day, which later became Commonwealth Day. It was a great occasion. There was



this British empire that we thought of being English more than anything else. We weren't conscious in those days of the Scots and the Welsh being any different. This was all during the war, and inevitably there was more national awareness. There's no one way you can view the British, but I'm sure we were viewed in Europe with a certain horror over the last weeks, because of the violence at the World Cup.

Cathy Grivas, 35, landlady, Orkney

I was born in Britain, grew up in Australia, and came back to Britain 10 years ago. Consequently I don't feel British and I don't feel Australian, but I suppose there is a lot of common ground because Australia was a British colony.

Being British means you are proud of the popular culture. We have the best television here and I love the newspapers and the radio. The World Service and Radio 4 are wonderful. I identify with the media. It's so familiar it makes you feel British. That's the sort of thing I miss when I go back to Australia.

Britain is definitely more cosmopolitan now. The choice of food is a lot better; it's just caught up with Australia. All the cafes now are great. My character has changed since I've been here. I'm not as loud as I used to be since I came back to England, but that is probably because I am in the North of Scotland. The Scots are more uptight than the English; they're more reserved. I'm definitely less healthy food-wise, though, and people drink much more alcohol here.

Colton Reid, 50, personal counsellor, Manchester
I came to Britain from Jamaica when I was 11 because we lived in the countryside and there just weren't any opportunities.

I have never had any serious problems being black in Britain, but I am a professional person. I think I have been very lucky. I've lived in London and Lincolnshire, but Manchester is the best area for tolerance.

What makes me feel proud now of living in this country is the overwhelming kindness of the British. Any of the appeals for money, such as Children In Need, seem to get an overwhelming response. It is a very unselfish nation. People are a lot more tolerant of black people than when I first came here.

I like the Queen; it's nice to have a figurehead. I like the various things that go with it, the opening of Parliament, the ritual. I feel part of that. I was in the St John's Ambulance Brigade years ago and we used to cover the

trooping of the colours, I used to enjoy watching all of that.

Interviews by Cynthe Williams

TOMORROW
Cultural Britannia
by Michael Bracewell



The awful moment when we all knew it was all over, as the Argentinian goalkeeper saved David Batty's final penalty shot.

Winners at losing, hands down

SPORTING BRITANNIA

Heroic Failure by Robert Winder

It is almost the received wisdom now that England likes losing at sport; that when the tough get going, we get lost. It might simply be that practice makes perfect, in which case we have had an exhilarating year – our cricketers, footballers and rugby players have all come up badly short.

But is it true? Do we really prefer chirpy losers, like Frank Bruno, to grumpy monomaniacs like Nick Faldo? Are we, in some way, addicted to defeat, more willing to engage and identify with reversal than with triumph? It is a cliché to say that we have an uneasy relationship with success, but our enthusiasm for it does often curdle into envy of the riches it confers. In this debate there are usually two voices. Let's call them Mr Love-Losing and Mr Losing-Hurts.

Mr Love-Losing: It's just true, you can't deny it. We love losing. It runs deep in the veins of our history. We prefer Nelson, who was shot, to Wellington, who wasn't. We like Harold for taking it in the eye like a man and Scott of the Antarctic for not quite making it. We celebrate Dunkirk – by most standards a humiliation. We love the Titanic. What do we choose to remember from our great Empire? Gordon of Khartoum, Florence Nightingale and the Light Brigade.

I'm sorry, but these are the stories that fill our history books: episodes of sacrifice, lessons in how to find triumph in disaster. We find setbacks inspirational.

And this feeds straight into the stories we tell ourselves about sport: we linger affectionately on the losing crew in the boat race, those chunky young men bent double and barely able to breathe. It's awful, but we love it. Face it, we're a nation of pessimists. We know no matter how sunny it is, that there's rain on the way. We especially love heroic defiance. We rate Atherton hanging on for two days in Johannesburg more highly than we regard our occasional victories. It's in our soul. We're stuck with it.

Mr Losing-Hurts: What are you talking about? We don't love losing – we hate it. And as for drawing at cricket – it isn't that we prefer it to winning, it's that we are overjoyed to have staved off defeat (for once). The only trouble now is that where we used to be at least sporting when we lost, these days we're graceless and sour. I mean, Atherton... enough said. Maybe it's inevitable.

There was a time when we were a great sporting country – after all, games are one of the lasting legacies of the Empire. Football, cricket, rugby, golf – you name it. They all spread from these shores and caught on elsewhere. And when you look back – Charlton, Compton and so on – it's obvious that something has been lost.

So I'm sorry, but no. We do not love losing – we loathe it. I think you are overlooking the liveliness of national

pride, and how it works. They are ours, these sportsmen and women, they are us. The best we have to offer. We long for them to put us in a good light, and deride them when they put us in a bad one. Of course, we feel humiliated when they turn out not to be as great as we thought they were, or hoped they might be.

And what about all the breast-beating that is provoked by defeat, the way we sulk like children who have come last on sports day? You think we enjoy that? We know we are not supposed to mind losing, we try to be grown up about it, but the truth is that we do mind – we really, really do.

When David Batty missed that penalty and England were out of the World Cup, it was awful. One of the commentators screamed: "Oh no, no, no!" And this was a true expression of what many viewers felt just at that moment. It wasn't only "hurt national pride". It was the deprivation. All at once, in a flash, a situation pregnant with possibilities and promise collapsed into utter bleak emptiness. Suddenly there was nothing to look forward to. It was all over. Someone once called this "the black pit of loss".

It is not as if we take things on ourselves. We're greedy for someone to blame. Alex Ferguson, the manager of our most successful football team, seemed to suggest on television that England did poorly in the World Cup because they were not as good at cheating as the other teams. Extraordinary.

I'm sorry, but I don't buy this "love of losing" line. It's just that we have had to get used to it. What are you saying, that no one would like Tim Henman if he actually won Wimbledon? You must be joking. The whole place would go ape. We yearn for winners. We look at the Peles, the Maradonas, the Shane Warnes, the Brian Laras or Tiger Woods – and we want someone like that. We lack genius, and it hurts.

Mr Love-Losing: Well, there's another problem here. Who's national character are we talking about? English? British? Are you saying the Scot's love losing, or the Welsh? Anyway, this confirms my point. We think we want genius, but do we really? Our whole approach to sport puts effort ahead of brilliance. We discourage brilliance, we resent, hound and bully it.

I know it is an old chestnut, but we are suspicious of the unconventional, the surprising. We think genius is just a posh word for self-indulgence. And you talk about Henman – that's just the same thing. We regard him as if he were Bjorn Borg if he bears a seed.

And then there's nostalgia. You mentioned Denis Compton, and you probably remember him scurrying about in black-and-white footage, hitting fours and flicking back his fringe. But do you know he played Test cricket for 20 years before he won the Ashes?

See, even our golden ages are imaginary. In fact, I have a theory that we've never been very good at cricket. It's all a myth. It is supposed to be our national game, and Lord's is its spiritual home and all. But the truth is that we used to beat the West Indies in the days when they were not allowed black players (a sensible precaution, in retrospect); and we'd thrash India and Pakistan in the decades after independence, when they were traumatised and impoverished; and yes, we managed to put one over Australia's Second XI when Kerry Packer commandeered the firsts. But golden age – what golden age?

Mr Losing-Hurts: Well, everyone talks about Dunkirk, but that really was a victory. We had lost the battle that preceded it, sure – the battle for France – but we won the retreat, which was a battle in itself. And, speaking of the French, they too had this myth about themselves loving losing. And in their case there were a couple of major wars to throw into the pot as well. It is true that we don't often lose those – perhaps war is our true national sport. But crickey, the celebrations in Paris.

Those people, correct me if I'm wrong, but it seemed to me they loved winning. Absolutely loved it. It was what they had been waiting for. The dominant myth in our football is not what you seem to be suggesting – the myth of the heroic loser – it's the deluded myth of ourselves as winners. We won the World Cup once, with home advantage. Otherwise, our record is second-rate. For us, it's an achievement to qualify. Yet we persist in believing that we are part of the elite.

Mr Love-Losing: You're not getting it. I'm not saying that we love losing as such. It's miserable, God knows, I accept that we hate it. But I still think we are in love with the story of losing. And the story is what we're left with, in the end. It is ours to impose, even if the facts don't quite support us. We lost, we say, but we could have won. And we cling to this never-never land in which we could have, might have, nearly, almost... I mean, only last week, did you catch the various verdicts on the World Cup final?

Lost count of the number of pundits who concluded it was a shame really because, you know, our lads had the beating of both those teams. How could anyone think that? Had they not noticed that our own Premier League was won by a team crammed with French footballers? Did they not recall the flamboyant presence in the English game of Eric Cantona and David Ginola, neither of whom could make the French team? Did it not strike them as even possible that French players might – perish the thought – simply be better than ours?

Listen: we played four, lost two. One of them was close. That's the story of our World Cup. Actually, the real story is the usual one, and it goes: we lost to the first good team we played, having already lost to a middling one. And we panicked under pressure. That's it. But this isn't the story we tell ourselves. You're right, we blame someone else – that's all part of it. We talk about the ref, the opposition, or, best of all, bad luck.

The papers were unanimous in insisting that penalties were "the worst" way to go out of the World Cup on the grounds that they are a "lottery". But they are not a lottery, they're a true test of skill and nerve. The well-struck ones are unsavory. We're not too good at them, but that's because we don't practice. In our own contorted way, we seem to believe that we "sort-of-beat" Argentina last month, just as we "sort-of-beat" them years ago, when Maradona punched the ball into the net.

See what I mean – we are good at turning defeats into triumphalist myths. If anything, it's a vanity. We simply refuse to accept loss. It never stops us dreaming. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining. I would even say that it is rather likeable, actually. In the grand scheme of things, losing is more honourable than winning. It isn't that we like losers, but we do feel for them. And what's wrong with that?

Mr Losing-Hurts: Whoah! Losing is more honourable? I'm sorry, but that sounds to me like a bad case of voyeurism. Losing is a better spectacle, is what you mean. We like seeing people suffer, we like to see them hurt. Did I miss something, or is that dignified? I fail to see how it is more noble than euphoria. But the real point, which perhaps both of us have been missing, is that it doesn't really matter in the end. Because, you know, at the end of the day, well, we got beat, didn't we? And that's that.

'What you call nasty-looking, we call tea'

ABSOLUTELY BRITANNIA

The Picnic and other curiosities
by Deborah Ross

and how to tell the classes apart? Martha, Oregon.

Dear Martha. Firstly, I like you Americans because when we come to your country you don't speak English only when our backs are turned. They obviously do in most other places, just to annoy us. Also, I do like people who think

irony was played by Nyree Dawn Porter in *The Forsythe Sago*. Well done you!

Now, how to distinguish between classes? Easy. A working class person will have either a big dog with a small head called Tyson, or two big dogs with small heads called Tyson One and Tyson Two, and lots of bumper bottles of Panda



AS QUITE a few people from abroad seem to have trouble understanding English customs, I have set up my own special agony column: What Is This Queuing All Night For the Proms Business When You Can Watch It On Telly And Get Totally Bored That Way? Already, I have received a number of letters, which I have answered to the best of my ability – that is, when not busy taking things back to Marks & Spencers or putting the cabbage on for lunch a week on Wednesday. Here is a sample:

Dear Ms Ross, I note with interest that people in your country drive to beauty spots where they eat sandwiches in the car while drinking something quite nasty-looking from a tartan flask. Please tell me, in what way does this constitute a good day out? Jean-Claude, Paris

Dear Jean Claude. It seems to me you have been too busy cycling around your own country with onions around your neck to get to grips sufficiently with some of the fundamentals of the English way of life. These include: a) only boating with a day out when you've

run out of money to spend at Collection Point A at Argos; b) being fearful of the countryside because there might be cows and poo and fresh air and hills and Janet Street-Porter and, c) never straying from the car because you need to get back in time for *Heartbeat*, a fine English TV production in which Wicksey from *EastEnders* chases baddies with a bicycle pump.

With regard to the flask business, what you call nasty-looking we call tea which isn't as hot as it might be and has a sort of plasticity, thermosy taste to it. It is a very pleasant beverage. You should not be so quick to rule things out before you've tried them. I once tried some smelly cheese from your country. It would have been delicious had it not been so yukky and stinky. Give me Cracker Barrel any day! UPS. On nice days, English people have been known to get out of their cars and picnic from the boot in the car park. Is it possibly this spirit that won us the war?

Dear Ms Ross, I am coming to your country for the first time in a few weeks and, so as not to make a fool of myself, can you tell me a little about the class system

Cola in the kitchen. A middle class person will have fruit in the house, even when no-one is poorly, and an espresso/cappuccino machine no-one uses. An upper class person will say to their child: "Darling, I love you so much, I am going to send you to Eton until you are 57."

I hope this helps. It should do. I tend to be right in most matters. We, as a nation, tend to be right in most matters. Up the Empire!

Dear Ms Ross. As a frequent traveller, I get to watch a lot of television all over the world. Mostly, it's sex, sex, sex, except in your country where it is vets, vets, vets, and not even vets and sex, which would go a long way to making *Animal Hospital* livelier. What is it about the English and small, hairy things of limited intelligence? Roy, Melbourne.

Well, Roy, it beats me. I recently had to have a cat put down and when I saw the bill, I was shocked to discover that it was £229! When I told the vet that if I'd known it was terminal I could have reversed over the cat for nothing, he came over all funny. "You don't want be-

reavement counselling, then?" he said, in a most sarcastic way. With regard to the sex thing, I've discovered it's really all right so long as you keep your eyes closed and stay very still. Lastly, small hairy things of limited intelligence? Don't blame us! Rolf Harris is from your neck of the woods!

Dear Ms Ross. Whenever I visit your country I make an effort to speak your language. However, whenever the English come over here, they just shout at us very loudly in English. How come? Giovanni, Italy.

GIOVANNI, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT, YOU SILLY BOY! NOW, DO YOU, BY ANY CHANCE, DO EGG AND CHIPS?

"This service is run on a non-profit-making basis unless it makes a profit, in which case I'm off to the garden centre for some tiles for my borders. All donations accepted. I hope to one day buy India back. And Gemma Kahn. God knows how she manages in those funny frock-and-scarf things (not a Nezi in sight!) I thank you. Toodle-pip!

We want what's best

It's what every parent says to their child when advising them on their degree or future career. But best for whom? By Diana Appleyard

Most of us profess that what we most want in the world is for our children to be happy in life - whatever their chosen career. This is humbug. What most of us really want is for our children to become doctors, or lawyers, or accountants. A career in which they will be safe, and in which they can earn enough money to keep themselves and their future families.

As young people all around the country are waiting anxiously for their GCSE and A-Level results, their parents will be plotting how to steer them in what they believe will be the right direction. Media Studies or History of Art may seem appealing at this stage - but parents might worry about limited opportunities once they emerge into the harsh reality of the job market.

Michael Foreman, the author and illustrator who has produced such books as *War Boy*, which is now part of the history curriculum, is going through just such a torment with his 16-year-old son, Ben, who will be attending Davies Laing and Dick College from September.

Ben's A-levels are a source of considerable worry and angst to us at present," says Michael. "He wants to take Art, English and Geography, which I know are his strong subjects. But I'm very concerned that he seems to be heading down just the same career path as me - he really wants to be an artist, I think - and I know what a very tricky path this can be."

But Michael and his wife Louise freely admit that the last place Ben should work is an office. "With improved communications, so many more people can work from home, which I feel would suit Ben much better. He's very much a free spirit, and I'm very happy that he should travel and see the world."

The Foremans took Ben for an

Professor Cooper says: "You should be part of the decision-making process with your children. But you must recognise whether you have a bias towards a particular subject. Step back and think: 'Would this really suit my child, or do I want them to do this for me?'"

Davies Laing and Dick College takes many pupils straight from GCSEs as well as helping some students through re-takes. Many of the parents who come to see Elizabeth Richards are extremely concerned about their child's academic future. She says: "I believe the support parents should offer is unconditional. If it becomes conditional, you place a burden on the child, and many parents could be much more helpful than they actually are."

"There's nothing wrong in parents encouraging their children to strive for the best unless it's done conditionally. If you don't get into Imperial College, you will have let yourself down - and us. When they are telling their sons and daughters that they should do medicine, they should ask themselves if they've always had a secret regret that they didn't become brain surgeons."

St Paul's Girls is one of the most academically successful schools in the country, and parents there tend to expect the very highest standards for their children. The High Mistress, Janet Gough, says: "The pressure is certainly there. We would expect parents to be interested, and they naturally have concerns. But we stress that choosing A-levels is the beginning of adult choices for the girls and it's of key importance that they are properly motivated. At the beginning of the GCSE year, we hold interviews to discuss the range of A-levels, to which parents are invited. But we then hold a second interview just with the girl herself."

Elizabeth Richards agrees that parents should not make the choices for their children. "Parents can help with suggesting degrees and career options, because they know

their child better than anyone else. Kids who can't concentrate are unlikely to get through a legal education. Those who are too shy to open the front door to guests had better steer clear of medicine. Above all, young people should be encouraged to do what they're good at."

Cary Cooper recently attended a degree ceremony at UMIST. "It was amazing how many graduates said, 'I've done it all for my parents. Now I want to do something for me.'"

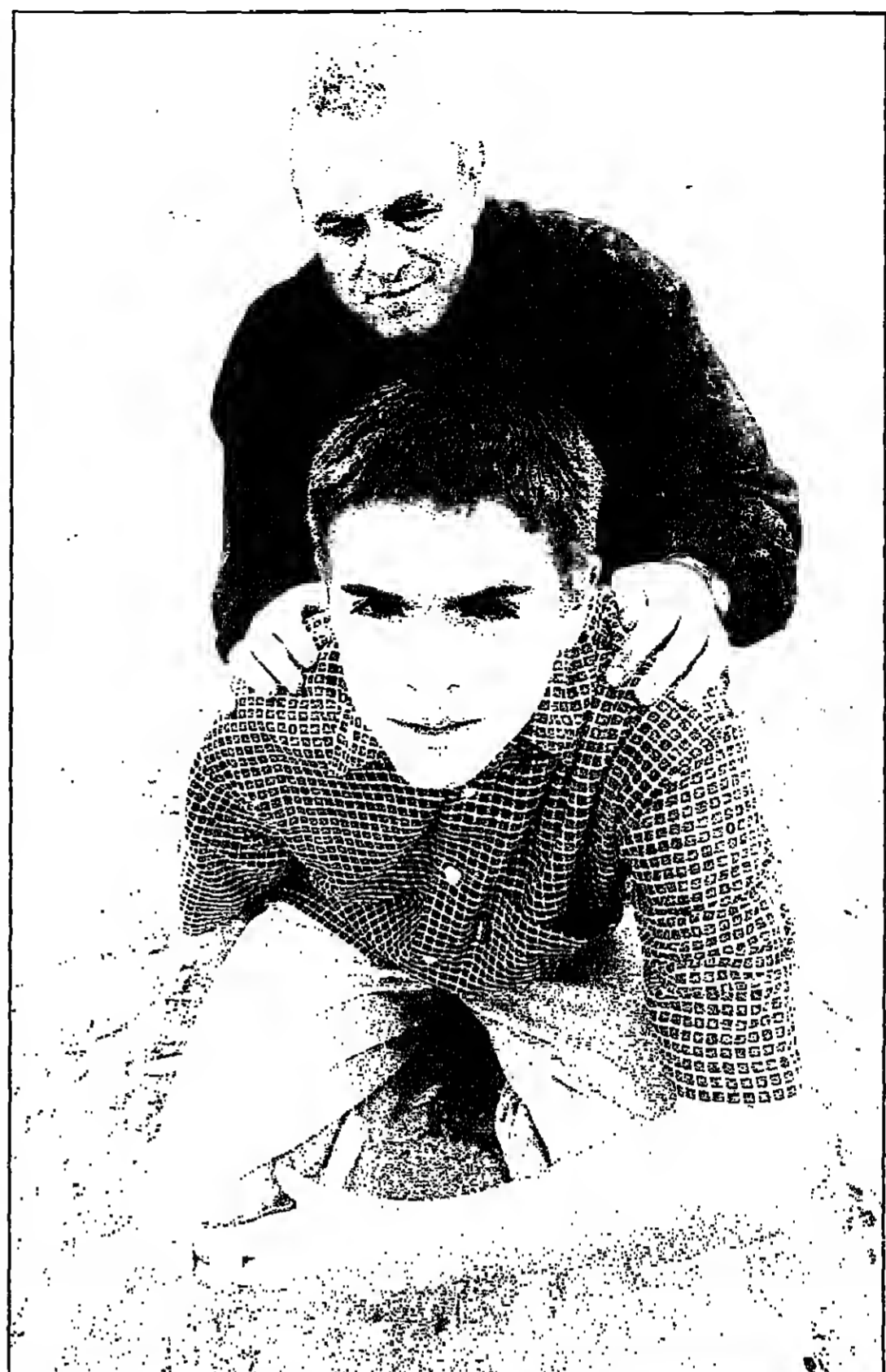
He says that parental pressure is still very much a middle-class issue. "Middle-class parents tend to use their children as surrogates of their own success. It's interesting to see that the very successful don't seem to push their children quite as hard."

He adds that children tend to react in one of two ways if they are pressurised by their parents - either they become compliant, or they rebel. "In a way, rebellion is better because the compliant ones often break out far more dramatically later on."

Janet Gough agrees, albeit in a more guarded way. "If you've been to King's Cambridge, it's very nice if your child goes there too. But if they want to study Fine Art at the university of wherever, then you should respect their wishes. You need to be concerned as much with the happiness and well-being of your child as you are in your aspirations for them."

Cary Cooper himself is an example of what can happen with parental pressure. "I was brought up as a first generation Jewish American, and I was really pushed by my parents. I actually went along with their wish and took a degree in law, which I absolutely hated, and dropped out of that course."

Although his parents felt that the law could be a secure profession, he now has a successful career in psychology - the subject which interested him. Perhaps a lesson for us all in the nervous wait for results and the choices to be made.



"I'm very concerned that Ben seems to be on the same career path as me" Kalpesh Lothigra

'I need to stop feeling needed to be needed'

A FAMILY AFFAIR

THIS WEEK: A MOTHER AND HER SON TALK ABOUT HIS DECISION TO LEAVE THE FAMILY HOME AND HOW IT HAS AFFECTED THEIR RELATIONSHIP



Leaving home has forced me to think about what I want to do, Zek says

Sam Morgan-Moore

Author and journalist Angela Neustatter, 54, has two sons. Her eldest, Zek, 22, is studying sculpture at St Martin's College. He recently left his family home in North London and lives in a flat nearby.

ANGELA NEUSTATTER
I feel that my relationship with my children is about knowing them fairly well - I left my job when my first son was two and a half. I decided to do that because I really wanted to be with my children. So the prospect of them not being there leaves a big hole. I feel very emotional about what it's going to mean.

Last week I was in Waitrose and I only spent £40 - it was really quite a profound moment. I realised this was the shape of things to come. It's that feeling of thinking: "What's the point of cooking for two after preparing so many family meals?"

I used to think: "There, at last a bit of time to myself." Now, though, it doesn't feel like that. Saying that, I'm pretty resourceful and there are masses of things I want to do. There's the next phase of my life to look forward to; it's nice to have more freedom, to go away and know you don't have to be back at a certain time.

I think it's very clear what I don't want to do - notice the great expanse around the dinner table, the photographs or the silence.

The idea of Zek leaving home started when he went to Zimbabwe on his own four years ago. I really respected him for that. He really grew up then. That was the first bit of losing him.

Zek warned us about a year ago that he was going to leave again. He spent a lot of time saying "I can't wait to get away", while languishing on my sofa after hovering my fridge. He'd also say: "I doubt I'll be here in a year's time." He was really putting out a notice of intent. I think he found it hard to warn us. He was quite frightened about how we might feel.

Actually we tried quite hard to make it plain that we thought

it was a good thing. Really one should say "Yippee!", because one's child is doing the most natural and healthy thing possible. I could see Zek had a rigour about leaving home and I knew he would make it work.

But, as an arch-egotist, I've got to accept I'll no longer be centre stage. I've always been: "I want to do that - they're my kids." But I've got to give up that position, even though I still refer to them as "the fruits of my womb". I need to let go feeling that I need to be needed.

It's an odd sort of time, although I do feel optimistic. I get moments when I think it's all loss and no gain but I there are a million good things to do and we'll always be good mates.

Maybe because he's had a lot of time with us, that gives him an independence. His dad was worse than me - it really broke his heart to see him growing away. But both of us feel it is time for him to go. He used to come down in the mornings like some abominable creature and sit at the table.

Now the other side is, I'm enjoying Zek as a man in his own right. He's a good conversationalist - he reads widely and is madly opinionated. Now I see him as a person in himself, and that's a good thing. Zek and I have always had a very intense relationship. He's always been mercurial and very demanding. But he's immensely rewarding.

ZEK NEUSTATTER
I left home about two months ago and I've been living in Holloway, North London. Four years ago, I went to Zimbabwe for a year and lived out there. That actually felt like leaving home. Even though I've left now, I'm still in the same area.

When I got back from Africa, I chose to stay at home again. I felt it was a way of getting to know my parents better. When you're at school and living at home, you see them as "parents", but as I've grown up I've seen them quite differently. We got on very well. I've always found them very easy to talk to;

I tell them what I feel. I think they gave me a very good childhood and I feel indebted to them for that.

But I wanted to leave because I needed some distance. I needed to get to know myself. I also wanted to make my own decisions without compromising my family. My parents have been very liberal about letting me do what I want. But I tend to take on responsibility in different ways; be it problems or arguments.

I also began to feel obliged to do certain things; such as jobs around the household. So I felt that I needed a shift, a change. Now I like being able to control when I do my own washing and cooking, and what I put in the fridge.

Leaving home has forced me to think about things that I want to do. No doubt it's affected my mother. I'm aware of that. I think she likes the fact I've moved out, but maybe she'd prefer it if I hadn't. I know they've got to grow into another way of life. I find that quite strange.

I realise that their children have moulded a lot of their life for the last 23 years and now, suddenly, they've got to start being more philosophical. Children provide a nice, tangible structure to your life. They give it meaning. But now they've got to have their lives around something else, which means asking themselves what they really want.

Since leaving home, I've begun to see my parents in another way. You always assume that they're unchangeable, but I'm beginning to see something different that I hadn't noticed before.

I am very close to my mother. I never like to think she's a very powerful woman, but I know she is. I find her challenging and I think we have a lot of similarities. I'm very driven and I get that from her.

Interviews by Emma Cook

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In Partridge we trust

The BBC has been told by its governors to smarten up its comedy act, but despite the odd turkey, there are plenty of laughs in the pipeline.
By Jasper Rees

Perhaps it was the death of Johnny Speight that goaded the governors on. Last week, the BBC Board's annual report told its producers of sitcoms that they could do better. Cue a deluge of knee-jerk articles, some of them riddled with factual inaccuracies, which argued that the bell is tolling for the British sitcom.

It goes without saying that there is nothing remotely original in any of this - the record has not been changed for several years. But it comes at precisely the moment when the BBC Comedy could be doing a lot worse. Of course, we can all quibble. The BBC continues to keep faith, for example, with *Game On*, in the baseless hope that a comedy about immaturity will one day come to maturity. It won't.

But this week, John Sullivan unfurls his first new sitcom since the end of *Only Fools and Horses*, which he has avuncularly co-written with sitcom rookie Steve Glover. In the autumn, Victoria Wood makes her debut as a sitcom writer with *Dinner Ladies*, as does the playwright Jonathan Harvey, with *Gimme Gimme Gimme*, starring James Dreyfus and Kathy Burke as a gay man and a straight woman who share a flat and a taste for hunks. In the longer term, there is a comedy called *Hippies*, set in a 60s magazine, and as yet uncast, by *Father Ted*'s creators, Graham Linehan and Arthur Mathews.

The consensus in Speight's obituaries was that they do not make sitcom writers like him any more. He stuck with his dyspeptic creation, Alf Garnett, in sickness and in health, till death did them part, in a way that Richard 'Vicar of Dibley' Curtis and Simon 'Men Behaving Badly' Nye et al simply are not prepared to do with their iconic characters. However, it would be an over-simplification to extrapolate that the BBC don't make sitcoms like they used to. *Outside Last of the Summer Wine* and *Birds of a Feather*, they probably don't. But that is not necessarily a bad thing.



Though comedy nostalgics hark back to *Fawlty Towers* (left), I'm Alan Partridge has a comic genius to compare

BBC

At BBC Comedy, the board's mild rap on the knuckles seems to have gone down quite well. "In a way we thought, good," says Jon Plowman, the BBC's head of comedy entertainment, responsible most recently for *Goodness Gracious Me*, "because the difficulty of producing sitcoms is being acknowledged, and that's kind of useful. We don't feel like we're particularly beleaguered. I don't think we have had a particularly bad year given that we've launched a lot of new comedy. Sitcoms are about an audience getting to know some people and it takes time. When the neighbours first move in, you're not sure whether you like them or not. But compare us to ITV, who live on a greenfield site with no comedies, and C4, who appear to live next door to some Americans."

Of the many reasons why sitcoms aren't easy to get right, the lack of competition for the BBC is often overlooked. Channel 4 has produced no more than three classics in its 16 years, while ITV's track record since *Rising Damp* has been largely dismal. Making a BBC sitcom, with the opposition lagging so far behind, is not unlike running a mile against the clock rather than against other runners: the determination to excel must come from within.

In the three decades since the first series of Speight's *Till Death Us Do Part*, that determination has yielded an average of no more than one BBC sitcom a year that counts as a classic. That may not be a particularly impressive strike rate. But it is a consistent one, and there is no evidence to suggest that it is changing.

What is changing is the amount of comedy the BBC is producing.

The lack of competition for the BBC is often overlooked. Channel 4 has produced no more than three classics in its 16 years

and with that comes the perception that there are many more flops knocking about. "There is a greater demand by controllers of BBC1 and BBC2 for entertainment and comedy," explains Plowman. "That doesn't result exponentially in a higher rate of hit sitcoms. It can't: the talent pool stays the same." If you want proof of that, look no further than the Channel 4 Sitcom Festival, in the last week of a three-week run at the Riverside in west London. The festival, which has produced two moderate sitcoms in

its previous three years, may as well have been created for the express purpose of demonstrating that good sitcoms don't grow on trees. But the tree they do tend to grow on is at Television Centre.

There is a further infelicity in the timing of the governors' edict. For years, the cry has gone up for the next *Fawlty Towers*, and they have rapped BBC Comedy on the knuckles at precisely the moment that they have

divorced, began quite promisingly last year as a theatrical piece filmed in front of a live audience, but it will reappear in its second series in the guise of a comedy drama without broadcast laughter.

"What may be happening," says Plowman, "is that it's becoming a bit easier to please the audience with the comedy drama end of the market than it is with the half-hour format. It's no coincidence that it's the comedy department that makes *Jonathan Creek*, not the drama department."

Hence also, *Operation Good Guys*, which satisfyingly spoofed the fly-on-the-wall format (although it tailed off badly in its last two episodes), Nye's *Hour Do You Want Me*, and Sullivan's *Roger Roger*. The second series of all three are awaited.

Some of these may yet turn out to be turkeys that went a series too far. But the right to fail must be enshrined in the sitcom's constitution. "You have to work on the principle of putting quite a lot out there and knowing that not all of it will finally work," says Plowman, "because otherwise how do you grow new writers? Do you say, 'We will keep you in the dark and we won't put anything on TV until we think it's absolutely bound to be better than *Fawlty Towers*'?"

Finally delivered it. Like *Fawlty Towers*, I'm Alan Partridge has comic genius coursing through its veins, and like *Absolutely Fabulous*, when it resurfaces in about a year's time, it will doubtless make the same journey from BBC2 to BBC1.

Meanwhile, shows such as *Unfinished Business*, by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran, are illustrating an elasticity of thinking that is expanding the sitcom's parameters. The first series, about a rapprochement between two

Back to the House that threw me out

Since the Royal Opera House sacked him, Keith Cooper has kept busy - making a film about his old bosses



AFTER A long and not particularly well-informed conversation about the World Cup, my mother said: "You see, there are other things in life apart from opera."

Had I been so preoccupied? Obviously. Since I was fired from the Royal Opera House four months ago, I have been making a documentary about events at Covent Garden after the way BBC cameras so memorably captured the dramas on and off stage in 1994.

Was I exacting my revenge? Initially I was bitter, but I had other emotions too: anger, frustration, sadness at not being able to finish the job and, hardest of all, humiliation. *Trouble at the House* is not about revenge, though. There was undeniably a frisson when I interviewed Mary Allen, the woman who sacked me. She left the ROH herself just a month later, so that gave us something to talk about.

My task seemed simple: to tell the story of the last three turbulent years. I interviewed some of the key players and well-informed commentators, such as Rodney Milnes of *Opera Magazine* and the broadcaster, James Naughtie, to try to form some conclusion about why things had gone so wrong. Thus I entered the lion's den.

The interviews with my previous bosses, Sir Jeremy Isaacs and Peter Jonas, went well. Gerald Kaufman, the MP whose Commons Select Committee produced such a damning report on the Opera House, was more difficult. The camera has difficulty in catching his dry and wry sense of humour.

I interviewed the impresario, Raymond Gubbay, outspoken critic of the ROH management. His polemic on why and how Covent Garden should be privatised should be scraped from the cutting room floor and sent to Chris Smith post-haste.

After four weeks plagued by self-doubt about why I was putting myself through this again, I went into the editing room in a hugely optimistic mood because the material seemed so good. But what followed was a revelation. Quite apart from the indignity of looking about five stone heavier than I am, I felt hugely protective about "my story", and hated to see it cut up, restructured, reordered and generally mauled about.

I protested, only to be asked: "Do you want this programme to go out at a civilised time and be watched by more than one man and a dog?" So for three weeks, I bled my partner, mother and anyone else who would listen with complaints of how used I was feeling. I approached the first viewing with dread. Eating your words is never easy, but what

I saw was a clear and straightforward, with a cooler analysis than I'd expected.

Of course, dozens of things were dropped because they were too long, or not contextual. I missed Jeremy's defiantly saying that in his nine years as General Director, the ROH managed miracles. More often than not he had balanced the books and the companies produced work of the highest quality. The select committee's arbitrary distinction between artistic achievement and financial management was, he said, nonsense.

Mary Allen also summed up the difficulties of managing Covent Garden: "The amount of money the ROH has to put on opera and ballet of international standard is significantly less than anywhere else. That creates stress," she said.

"Then you have donors who are giving fortunes to the place. Naturally, they worry about how that is spent and they want to influence events. You also have to maintain the highest artistic standards and provide a context that nurtures some of the greatest artists in the world. So you sit in the middle of a network of tensions that make it peculiarly difficult to run." It still is, and she should know.

The big debate was how it would end. Naively, I thought the worst of the ROH's problems were over and that the programme risked appearing dated. Wrong again. The Opera House continues to shoot itself in the foot, demanding another £15m, with threats and menaces, and admitting it plays lip service to education (does the new Chief Executive not realise the ROH education department is one of the oldest and most respected in the land?).

My determination to redress the balance and talk about the artists, and the way in which they have been overlooked, has only been partly successful. The achievements of those rare talents, who give so many so much pleasure, seem to count for nothing. The highs and lows of the balance sheet always grab the headlines more than the sublime artistry of Viviana Durante or Karita Mattila. I despair of a media more interested in scandal than success.

But the lack of national pride in the Opera House is largely the fault of the institution itself. It lost the support of public and media long ago by taking their support for granted. For that I must hold myself partly responsible. I don't think *Trouble at the House* will make things worse, as some at the ROH fear. Making it has been an extraordinary and at times cathartic experience.

'Trouble at the House' is on BBC2 tonight, 9.30pm.

Fun with fibre-optic frocks

THE DRESS is figure-hugging and perfectly plain, apart from an exquisite design attached to the front resembling a papery, veined watermelon being ripped in two. Fashion at its most inspiring. But read the accompanying description and you'll find that the breastplate is in fact a pair of chromosomes pulling apart, suspended above the dress to ensure it quivers when worn. "mimicking the shudder of cells as they divide".

An exhibition marrying art and science while remaining true to both parties, is an ambitious project, but "Primitive Streak", by designer Helen Storey and her development biologist sister, Kate, has

GALLERY WEEK

'PRIMITIVE STREAK'
CORNERHOUSE
MANCHESTER

achieved just that, the spectacular fashion garments all representing a key stage in the first 1,000 hours of embryonic life. "Beauty is the only objective," says Helen Storey, "that and the life event I'm trying to explain: the development of a human form."

The use of new and innovative materials add to the works' originality. The spinal column dress is made of silk,

but employs new printing techniques, its female spine cast in resin and hand-plated with aluminium foil, with 8,000 fibre optic endings woven through it, representing the body's own nerve processes. These are not outfits in which to party. "Primitive Streak" is at Manchester's Cornerhouse, a contemporary arts centre which aims to showcase new and challenging works. And children taking part in this week's fashion week, centred around the exhibition, will get first-hand tips from Helen Storey as they put together their own creations in preparation for a fashion shoot on Friday.

There is also a competition open to all adults and children who find themselves inspired by the limb formation, sperm and DNA-based designs, based on. In her quest for biological accuracy, Helen Storey studied the various stages of cell formation through the eye of a microscope and her resulting works, such as the Heart development net dress, reveal how little most of us know about the aesthetics and make up of our own bodies.

'Primitive Streak' runs until 23 August at Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5NH (0161 200 1500)

KATE MIKHAIL

Ten harps, sweet dreams and black magic

SOME WOULD sell their souls for a season ticket or so Nicholas Kenyon would like to think). Faust settles for Marguerite and finds himself on the fast track to Hell. Hector Berlioz has the reins on this white-knuckle "Ride to the Abyss" and never mind that Dick Barton is apparently by his side. Be afraid. Be very afraid. The ladies of the BBC Singers and BBC Symphony Chorus (traditionally so demure on opening nights) shriek their alarm, an ophicleide breaks wind in the bowels of the brass, oboes mutate into cawing nightbirds, and the earth momentarily moves under the indiscriminate thunder of bass drum, timpani, and tam-tam. Musical magic? Musical black

PROMS
THE DAMNATION OF
FAUST
ROYAL ALBERT HALL
LONDON

magic. Faust goes down. Mephistopheles claims victory. But love changes everything for Marguerite, and her apotheosis is campily swathed in the collective twinkling of many harps. Berlioz asked for ten, but when did you last hear him get ten? Only at the Proms. Let's hear it for subsidy.

And so Andrew Davis's often very beautiful, but to my mind, overly sober account of *The Damnation of Faust* finally took flight. The Proms 98 were in the

ascendancy. Or at least the soul of Marguerite was. Which was no less than Ann Murray deserved. It's true that hers is the most haunting and captivating music of the evening, but to hear her *Romance* sung as though the flame of love really might consume her, to hear the vocal line palpitations, the breathless rapture of the text given such immediacy - there in lies the wonder of Berlioz at ooe with his performers.

And he was equally lucky with David Rendall (stepping in for the indisposed Richard Margison). Rendall was on a vocal high. Or rather highs. The promise of heaven on earth was as real, as intoxicating, to him as it was fraudulent to us,

and the intoxication was all in the tessitura, the rapt ascents into the tenorial stratosphere. No discomfort there. He sang quietly, too - quietly but in a full voice, not some phoney falsetto. And when finally he stood back in awe of nature's proud impassivity, his heroic invocation of "forests, rocks, torrents" augured well for his forthcoming *Othello* at English National Opera. Othello was glibbie, too. He, too, had a Mephistopheles. Bryn Terfel was very much the devil we know - suave and persuasive, a leer, a sneer, a curl of the lips on every French vowel. Terfel is rarely less than full-on. The "well-bred flea" of his celebrated air was loudly despatched with a stamp of the

foot, his victory cry must have been heard all the way down Kensington Gore. But equally, who could resist his promise of sweet dreams? Certainly not Faust. That scented serenade - "Voici des roses" - was once again testament to Berlioz's genius, a trio of trombones and one solo cornet providing the unlikelyst of sweet harmonies.

It was this side of the score's personality - the dream-like, the fragrant, the ethereal - that Davis and the BBC Symphony caught so well. Syphs and Will-o'-the-Wisps duly cavorted in gossamer strings and puckish woodwinds, their touch unfailingly light. But against this must be set - in high and lurid relief - the scaring wildness

EDWARD SECKERSON



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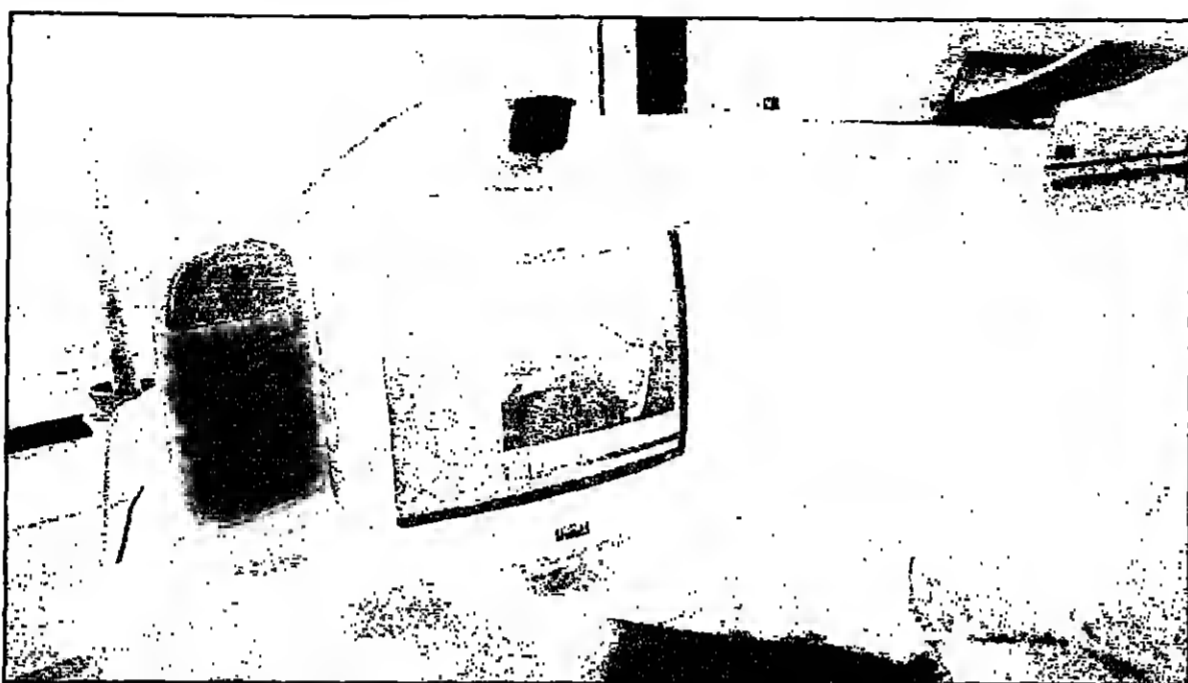
The virtual doctor will see you now

Telemedicine promises to be an invaluable tool for UK doctors, just as long as the IT industry can come up with the right prognosis. By Mark Vernon

After his speech to the NHS 50th anniversary conference two weeks ago, the Prime Minister was shown some of the latest IT healthcare projects, including a telemedicine video conferencing system by which he chatted online to Professor Paul Wallace of the Royal Free Hospital Medical School.

Mr Blair's first virtual hospital visit lasted only a few seconds, and his departing words were: "The possibilities are enormous if we can get this right." Professor Wallace might well have been thinking the same thing: a postcard in his office reads: "To err is human. To really fuck things up requires a computer."

The Government's announcement of a "modernisation fund" for the NHS places big expectations on IT to improve the service. The problem is not just one of pure IT capability, it is increasingly an issue of management. Telemedicine works surprisingly well, because in many areas of medicine the specialist can tell an enormous amount from relatively basic information—patient history, routine test results and simply by the patient pointing to where it hurts.



Robert Harrison using the telemedicine system.

Kalpesh Lathigra

The telemedicine system at the Royal Free Hospital has been under development for over three years. A moderately powerful PC fitted with a video card and an ISDN line is attached to a camera or a probe. A consultant can examine a patient in a three-way process including the GP who sits with the patient.

"With orthopaedics or gastroenterology, the GP can carry out the examination under the guidance of the specialist," explains Robert Harrison, senior research fellow at the medical school. "For other consultations such as dermatology, the system might be used to download compressed data files, thereby ensuring the good image quality that is necessary for a successful diagnosis. We have connected six practices to 10 specialists and conducted 54 consultations." Harrison says, "Eighty-five per cent of patients said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the outcome."

CamNet is another telemedicine system currently under development. It operates using an audio-visual headset with a miniature viewing screen, enabling expert clinicians to be "telepresent" at the scene of accidents. A remote focal scanner, used to transmit ultrasound images, is another such system, currently being tested at St Mary's District General Hospital on the Isle of Wight. An early evaluation indicates that

86 per cent of cases result in a definitive diagnosis over the link.

IT companies are well aware of the revenue opportunities the NHS modernisation programme represents. BT, New Labour's favourite hi-tech company, is involved in the projects mentioned above. And Microsoft, whose chairman Bill Gates has had private meetings with Tony Blair, has been involved in a number of developments. MSWatch (www.mswatch.com), for example, is an online multiple sclerosis community that gives users the option of sharing personal health information with medical experts.

One MS sufferer, Heather, who otherwise would be relatively isolated by geography, testifies to the new sense of control the system has given her. "I admit I'm booked on the chat sessions and the discussion groups. It's reassuring to know that doctors, nurses and other people who understand multiple sclerosis are easily available," she says.

Services for doctors are also being launched, one of the most recent being Physicians Online (www.ponline.com), billed as the first Internet community for doctors worldwide and designed to optimise economies of scale and knowledge sharing. At the Royal Free Hospital, a trial is underway that will connect 50 GPs in London and Shrewsbury.

In five years time, Harrison believes the system could become standard. "Experiments with face-to-face consultations when the GP is present show that follow-up visits are reduced, patient health and satisfaction is improved, and GPs themselves learn new skills," he says. "[The NHS spends] £2.4bn a year on some 40 million follow-up appointments; just reducing that by one per cent would create substantial savings."

Overall, the benefits of telemedicine are clear. But to deliver these benefits, the GP must be prepared to carry an extra burden of time and cost. The cost of the equipment itself is not a major factor, but time on the video-telephone for the GP could be significant. "I believe they should receive extra remuneration as a result," Harrison says.

Other problems associated with implementing medical IT are demonstrated by the issue of "smart cards" that carry personal health data. Germany's 70 million citizens are already in possession of medical cards carrying administrative information. In France, 25 million such cards will be issued this year.

In the UK, however, though the savings and health benefits of smart cards are understood, their introduction is still being debated. The main issue is user confidence: no one wants private health information to be downloaded by an in-

surance company when they are otherwise innocently drawing money from a cashpoint with a card that also carries their health records. Smart cards are being trialled in a number of health authorities, carrying maternity data for antenatal care or as cash cards for patients using ward telephones. But their deployment nationwide seems far off.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, clearly recognises these problems. "The NHS must match extra resources to new ways of working and modernisation," he says. "The new NHS modernisation fund will ensure that happens."

He must not overlook another factor, however—the millennium bug. The NHS repeatedly cries out for more assistance on this problem: a recent NHS Confederation report found 54 per cent of NHS trusts were dissatisfied with central government support for dealing with the bug, which will cost around £750 million to fix—before any modernisation.

Harrison adds a final warning—beware of technology hype. Technology does have a powerful tendency to seduce with its seemingly endless wonders. "Don't forget the business at hand," he advises.

Beware – Big Brother is online

MANY OF my generation have grown up fearing Big Brother.

We have read Orwell's 1984 and other cautionary tales. We have seen the abuses of corrupt governments who use their powers and their secret police to horrible ends.

We have watched honest dissent become grounds for bloody reprisals in nation after nation, decade after decade. And we have pushed back. We're for human rights. For free speech. For a global, unregulated Internet where Information Wants To Be Free.

So, if you are like me, you may not like how some people choose to use the Internet. Take the US Navy, for example. The US Navy, like the rest of the US military, is perfectly willing to let almost anybody sign up to die for their country, and offers them low pay for the privilege. But they do have one little "idiosyncrasy": if you are gay, you can die for your country, but you can't date.

In fact, if you are a gay member of the US Navy, you can't even say you're gay. Die, fine; speak (about a certain topic), nyet! The US military used to have similar policies for people who were black, Hispanic, or Asian. In the bad old unenlightened days.

They have progressed tremendously since then, however. Now, the Navy uses the Internet to persecute people who are "different". In the eyes of military leadership, straight people, especially straight male people, can apparently barress other members of the military, especially female ones, pretty much all they want. Remember the Operation Tailhook scandal from a few years back?

But non-straight members better look out. The US Navy, with no wars or other current distractions on its hands, will happily send its investigators to check out the Internet and online chat rooms, just in case any Navy personnel happen to be arranging dates with other than the approved, presumably Navy-issue, sex.

And so it happened that a sailor named Timothy McVeigh (no relation to the Oklahoma City bomber) will leave the Navy rather abruptly this year. As recounted by



CHRIS GULKER

If you are for human rights, you may not like the way some people choose to use the Internet. The US Navy, for example

Wired News, a Navy investigator, posing as a civilian, persuaded an America Online customer service representative to reveal the name attached to a user profile for a pseudonymous AOL screen name.

Now, AOL pledges confidentiality as part of its Terms of Service, and the US military is supposed to be bound by a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Here, however, the Navy asked AOL to tell, and Master Chief Petty Officer Timothy R McVeigh was sunk.

McVeigh, who was described as a "sterling" sailor, sued. While both the Navy and AOL settled, McVeigh, aged 36, will find himself embarking on a new life, and not by choice, despite having conducted himself perfectly in his naval career, by all accounts.

And, just this past week, an Internet mail list has been buzzing with the story of an American portal service and a Canadian Internet service provider that turned over the IP address and name of a person who had been critical of a troubled Canadian company on the Internet. According to a story in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Philip Services Corp "has struggled with losses of \$126.3m (£79m), a copper-trading scandal and the departure of most of its senior managers".

Investors have noticed, and have been talking about, the waste recycling firm in a Yahoo! investors' chat room. Philip didn't seem to enjoy at least some of the postings, and sought a court order for Yahoo! to reveal IP

addresses, and an ISP, Westlink Datalink Corp, a unit of US-based PsiNet, to turn over the names of the subscribers associated with the IP addresses.

According to the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Philip originally sued both to get the posters' names, and to prevent the ISP from notifying the users that they had been forced to reveal their identities. This is very creepy behaviour, in my opinion.

So who did the offender turn out to be? Why, none other than a former Hamilton, Ontario, city councillor who had been actively involved in disputes concerning pollution in Hamilton harbour.

A Philip spokesperson has been quoted as saying: "We've been quite clear that there obviously is absolute entitlement to freedom of speech and people are free to criticise any company and discuss the company and its performance."

"But when it gets to the point of out-and-out defamation, stalking, ethnic slurs, forms of sexual harassment, it's going beyond anything that's acceptable."

Paul Falanga, a former *Toronto Globe and Mail* editor, also a target of a Philip court order, characterises most of the chat about Philip as fair. Clearly, Philip's actions are meant to have a chilling effect on critics. The *Globe and Mail* reports that Philip warned Internet critics that it would pursue legal action if they didn't cease making comments that Philip considers "defamatory".

The sad part here is that firms like Yahoo! and PsiNet rolled over on their clients. In my opinion, they should have pulled out the stops and sent the lawyers to block Philip (Westlink did get the court order amended, and PsiNet promises to pursue the case further).

What if this had been the case of a Chinese dissident, who could have suffered reprisals? As it is, a good American sailor is going to be doing something other than serving his country.

Worse, Big Brother does not have to be a global, evil empire anymore. Suddenly, every goon with a cheap Net connection seems to be peering over my shoulder.

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WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

Visit the 'films noirs' in Jeem's Dark Room

Jeem's Cinepad

<http://cinepad.com/>
THIS MOST cinematic of movie sites, complete with fades, dissolves and iris shots, is the work of Jim Emerson, film critic and former editor of *Microfilm*'s now discontinued *Cinepad* CD.

"Jeem's" homepage is just that: a view of his book-laden Seattle pad with clips from the classics flickering on his TV. The best part of the house is undoubtedly The Dark Room, a clever composite still image from various films noirs, that expands into a clickable visual index for the entire genre. As well as his own reviews and interviews, there is a library of recommended film criticism and the first phase of a planned on-line film school. The site is meant for "serious movie lovers", but cannot stay serious for very long: so there is a history of plumbing in films, and a teasing so-called adult section which turns out to consist of plot giveaways for classic titles. So the planet of the apes is really earth, and Rosebud is a sled—but you knew that already.

Anatomical Travelogue, Inc <http://www.anatomicaltravel.com/>
LUNGS, HEART and other organs detach themselves from a skeletal body, rotate niftily for display purposes and then pop back whence they came: this *dansé macabre* is the work of a US medical imag-



ing company purveying a disconcerting mixture of biology, art and commerce. There are animated views of a 12-year-old's brain tumour and close-ups of the atrophied nerve endings found in Alzheimer's disease, along with an invitation to pharmaceutical companies in search of striking visuals to promote their products. Also available is a "3D recreation of entire disease processes", and virtual surgery simulations which allow doctors, somewhat alarmingly, to "fly through" patients before operating. A future project will scan and animate the internal workings of 10 world class athletes, and of 10 ordinary, unfit couch potatoes, in a sort of compare and contrast exercise.

Global Mariner <http://www.itf-ship.org/>
THIS CAMPAIGNING site from the International Transport Workers Federation tracks its newly-acquired exhibition ship, as it travels from port to port, highlighting the iniquities of the "flag of convenience" system. The Global Mariner, launched

by the Minister for Transport in London, Glenda Jackson, earlier this month and docked this week in Lisbon, is a floating exposé of the way rogue ship owners of vessels nominally registered in Liberia, Antigua and elsewhere mistreat and exploit their crew members. The 20 worst offending companies are listed with details of their offences, which range from unhygienic galleys to, in one case, a killing. The aim is to ensure all ships are flagged in the country of their real ownership and thus subject to definite controls.

Operation Sea Change <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/seachange/>
MEANWHILE, THE good ship Greenpeace—the NV Neptune—is sending daily dispatches from the North Atlantic, complete with a rich and strange soundtrack of whale and dolphin noises, which are perhaps better enjoyed as an occasional exotic treat rather than a continuous background.

This latest bid to save the Atlantic frontier from oil exploration, to prevent it being turned into a "polluted marine industrial estate", also incorporates a survey by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. Visitors can select a rectangular "block" of ocean to defend and then look up details of marine activity and possible threats to that particular sector.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

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Gifts are charged at £1 local VAT. Overseas rates apply to calls from non-BT networks.

Dial the White House for hard porn.

'Stealth' web sites use famous names to lead surfers to porn pages. And there is little the law can do. By Richard Kelly Heft

"OUR NATION'S young teens, hot lesbians and hardcore nymphomaniacs all gather here to serve you and serve their country." This is the lead banner that greets you when you first go and log on at www.whitehouse.com.

Bill Clinton might not like it much, but the White House has been hijacked. Sure, there is still the official White House web site (www.whitehouse.gov), with its reassuring photo of the Oval Office, a US flag flapping perpetually to either side. But there is a dirty interloper lurking round the corner like a street hustler with a trenchcoat full of watches.

As the www.whitehouse.com banner above indicates, the commercial version will not fill you in on the President's latest tour of China or even the adventures of Socks the cat. It will, however, provide digitally enhanced photos of Hillary Clinton resplendent in black leather and whip, Interns of the Month (and they are not being lauded for their brain power) and thousands of live feeds which cater for almost any sexual fantasy.

The infamous site - which has benefited hugely from mainstream television and print coverage - is perhaps the most well-known and successful of the burgeoning number of "stealth" web sites. The sites mimic famous addresses (including Compag, Netscape and Nasa among many others), using

either a different suffix, or easily made spelling errors to lure people to places in cyberspace they had no intention of visiting.

Typing in www.conpag.com, or www.nasaa.com, for example, will all lead you to hardcore porn sites. In many cases, the locations are simply "banner farms" existing only to provide advertisements and links to actual porn sites. Banner-farm operators earn their money - usually about 5 cents a hit - every time someone clicks through to one of their advertisers' sites.

But whitehouse.com is no banner farm. It is the real thing - hardcore cyberporn - 15,000 live and video sex feeds, erotic chat, and XXXXclusive models available at \$10 a month to members. "A real good value," says Dan Parisi, who bought the domain name in May 1997. Parisi paid \$10,000 for rights to the whitehouse.com name and started a government parody site replete with cartoons and biting sarcasm. It did not take long, however, before he started wondering if he was, in his mother's words, "an idiot" for having paid all that money.

The site received only 50 to 100 hits a day, and subscribers were few. After three desperate months - losing, he claims, a total of \$30,000 - Parisi read a story in *USA Today* about the explosive growth of cyberporn and decided it was his best shot at turning a profit. "I had



The infamous unofficial White House site is one of the most popular on the World Wide Web

to do something drastic otherwise I was going out of business," he says.

The site still manages to mix some politics and humour under the banner of "free speech", there are parody pictorials, cartoons and a chat room - but Parisi is not fooling himself as to why the site is now so

popular, typically receiving 50,000 hits a day. "I personally like the free speech and cartoons best," he says. "But it doesn't pay the bills. Most people go straight to the sex. I'm not crazy about it [porn], to tell you the truth. ... My mother's not happy about it, either."

US lawmakers are also none too pleased. At least two bills are in the pipeline to regulate sites like Parisi's. One, introduced by Republican Senator, Lauch Faircloth, of North Carolina, takes aim directly at stealth operators by making it illegal to use government

agency names for commercial web sites. "The Senator is upset that children can punch up 'White House' and look at this stuff," says Jim Hyland, Senator Faircloth's legislative director.

The Faircloth bill could stand alone, or be introduced as an amendment to pending legislation from Senator Dan Coats of Indiana. His measure is aimed at preventing access to pornographic material - such as the ubiquitous free teaser photos - to anyone under 18. But legal experts say the Faircloth bill is likely to be found unconstitutional and neither measure will help in the still murky area of on-line trademark law. The onslaught of stealth sites which mimic corporate or celebrity names would also not be affected.

Because the issue of on-line naming rights is hotly debated within the internationally dispersed Internet industry, most insiders believe that it would be extremely difficult to draft effective legislation. Besides, say watchdog groups, enforcing current legislation still remains the main problem.

"We aren't enforcing the laws we already have," says Shyla Welch, spokeswoman for Enough is Enough, a Virginia-based, anti-porn group. "If there were prosecutions, the bad guys at least would know there's a chance of being caught."

As it stands, there have been only a handful of obscenity cases brought to trial in the past five years. This,

despite the fact that virtually every hardcore site could be prosecuted under current obscenity laws. Sites like whitehouse.com are particularly irksome, says Welch, because they attract unwitting children. Welch recently fielded a call from the leader of a Girl Scout troop in Centerville, Virginia, after the woman catastrophically wound up at the porn site during an Internet demonstration for the troop.

For now, Parisi's site - with its featured flag-draped "WhiteHouse First Ladies" and "Interns of the Month" - is thriving. After being featured on the NBC news magazine, *Dateline*, last month, visits doubled to about 100,000 a day, and the service is now firmly in the black. Unlike other stealth sites, which are clearly aimed at snaring people who mistype names (one web site is even called mistype.com), Parisi claims to receive very few visits by error. "Just look at how few people checked us out when it was a parody site," he says.

Since the Monica Lewinsky case, there has been particular interest in the site's "Interns of the Month". Parisi claims to have received numerous nude photos of Lewinsky, which he has yet to post because he believes that they have all been doctored. "She [Lewinsky] just doesn't seem like she'd be that kind of girl," he says.

Then again, neither does the (real) First Lady.

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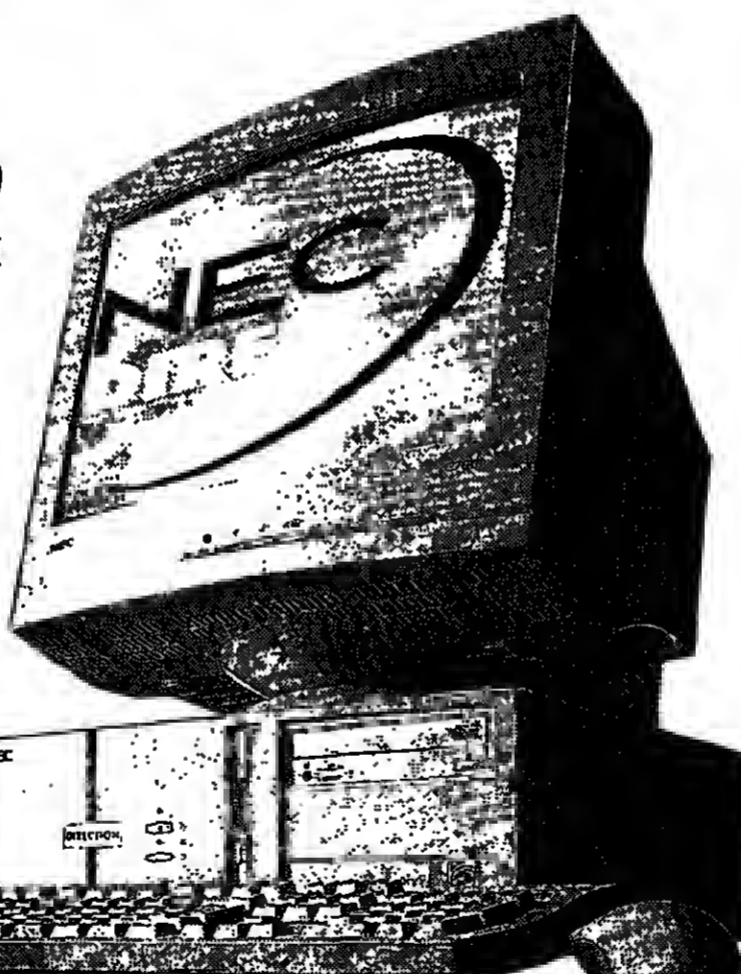
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A shady business: the darker sides of sites

DROP SHADOWS are often - arguably a little too often - used to add visual interest to graphics while at the same time adding emphasis to important elements on the screen.

However, with frames, drop shadows get a little trickier. What we have to accomplish here is an integrated effect around different frames, where the shadow for one frame might be in several different frames. This week I want to show you how to set up a drop shadow on any side of a frame. To do this we will create a single graphic that looks like our Web page in miniature. We then split this graphic up and set each piece into a frameset made up of nine different frames: one central content frame surrounded by eight other frames containing the drop shadow.

If you want to see what this looks like or you have trouble with the code, check out an on-line example at:

<http://www.webbedeviro.com/examples/28.html>

1 Making the background graphic

How you make the actual graphic used to create your drop shadows will depend on the graphics programming you have. I use Photoshop 4 myself, but most graphics programs can do the same things. Start with a large square graphic, I used one 300x300 pixels, filled with the background texture or graphic of your choice. I created mine using the noise and emboss filters to make a rough stone-like surface.

Next, create another square in the middle of the image and fill it with the colour your central content frame will be in the final product. Duplicate this square underneath the first one, fill it with black and then apply the gaussian blur filter to create the shadow.

The more space you place between the inner square and the outer boundary of the graphic, the wider or taller your frames will need to be to accommodate the background graphics. So, if you want a 100 pixel border around the frame with the drop shadow, leave 100 pixels between the inner and outer squares.

2 Splitting the graphic Now we need to take this graphic and split it up into eight different pieces:

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Use drop shadows and frames to add visual interest and emphasis to on-screen elements

four sides and four corners.

Do not cut right on the edge of the shadow, but about 10 pixels inside the inner square. This allows for a better fit of the drop shadows and allows us to put a border around scrollbars in the centre frame.

Save each of these individual pieces in separate GIF files. I called these files ds_1.gif, ds_2.gif, ds_3.gif, and so forth.

3 Setting up the HTML documents Now create a separate HTML file to house each background graphic:

```
<HTML>
<BODY
  BGCOLOR="#666666"
  BACKGROUND="ds_1.gif">
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

I called these ds_1.html, ds_2.html, ds_3.html, etc...

We now have the HTML files we need to create the drop shadow with frames. To create the centre of the page, simply make an HTML document that has the same background colour as the centre square of our original graphic.

4 Put the pieces together in the frame document Finally put all the pieces together into a frame document. You will need to take into account the size of your background graphics when defining the frame size. To prevent unwanted repeating of the background graphics, I recommend making the frames five pixels shorter than the dimension of the background graphic. My frameset looks like this:

```
<FRAMESET
  ROWS="115,115"
  BORDER="0"
  FRAMESPACING="0">
  <FRAMESET
    COLS="115,115"
    BORDER="0">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_1.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 1"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_2.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 2"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_3.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 3"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
  </FRAMESET>
  <FRAMESET
    COLS="115,115"
    BORDER="0">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_4.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 4"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
    <FRAME
      SRC="centre.html"
      NAME="Centre"
      NORESIZE>
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_5.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 5"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
  </FRAMESET>
  <FRAMESET
    COLS="115,115"
    BORDER="0">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_6.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 6"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_7.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 7"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
    <FRAME
      SRC="ds_8.html"
      NAME="Drop Shadow 8"
      NORESIZE
      SCROLLING="NO">
  </FRAMESET>
</FRAMESET>
```

Notice that I eliminated the frame borders and gave all of the outer frames the NORESIZE attribute.

The background graphics in the side frames (Drop Shadow 2,4,5, & 7) will tile to fill either the horizontal or vertical space of that frame no matter what the dimensions of the window are, while the corner backgrounds (Drop Shadow 1,3,6, & 8) keep a constant size and bridge the gaps. Again, if you want to see the final results, visit:

<http://www.webbedeviro.com/examples/28.html>

Any questions? Contact me at: indy_webdesign@maine.spring.com

Time to put your chips on the table

City investors are looking for safe bets in an uncertain climate. The UK's hi-tech small fish look a big steal. By Rob Tarling

Remember Sid, the Joe Average, small investor dreamt up by an advertising agency, who encouraged you to take part in the privatisation of British Gas in the 1980s? Well, in a sense, he's back. Last month, the London Stock Exchange launched a £1m advertising campaign aimed at stimulating a share-owning culture among the traditionally equity-shy British public.

Whatever the merits of such a campaign – coming at a time when global markets are unsettled by the state of the Far East economies and UK stocks are easing down from all-time historic highs – it does pose the question of where to invest? To find an answer you need look no further than the UK's hi-tech industry.

Business is thriving in Britain's information technology sector. Fixing the millennium bomb and preparing for European Monetary Union (regardless of whether the UK is in or out), combined with the rapid corporate adoption of network and Internet-protocol technologies have seen IT companies announcing a string of spectacular financial results throughout 1997 and into 1998.

For example, Admiral, a leading UK leading IT services company, lifted annual pre-tax profits by 56 per cent to £17.5m on sales of £117m. And Logica, the consultancy and services company, raised half year pre-tax profits by 46 per cent to £15.5m on turnover of £216m. These results are not isolated cases but a reflection of a wider trend – with certain notable exceptions, like hardware producers – across the industry. Few now doubt that the growth is there, the real question is, will it sustain?

It appears that the key and sustainable, driver of the sector is the increasing dependence of UK plc on the use of information technology for business advantage. For instance, a recent report by KEW Associates, the IT market research firm, highlights the rising annual spend on IT across virtually every sector of UK industry, with financial services, computing and retail leading the way.

It also emphasises the central place of Internet-based services in corporate IT spending plans, an area which looks set to grow even faster with the rapid commercial adoption of intranets and the rise of business-to-business electronic commerce. What, then, is the significance of the millennium bomb and the Euro? With their passing will the IT boom be as short-lived as some argue? It appears not. For as John Higgins, director general of the Computing Services and Software Association (CSSA), explains: "The UK's IT sector is the fastest growing in Europe, with 18 per cent growth in real terms in 1997. But only a third appears to come from the millennium bomb and EMU special effect, which suggests the rest is simply driven by sector demand." In time, therefore, the diversion of corporate IT spend towards resolving the double computing whammy of the late 1990s may simply be seen as "an



Leading companies in the IT sector have seen considerable growth in share prices since 1996

upward blip on an upward trend". Nowhere are the effects of all this felt more keenly than in the City of London.

Late last year, FTSE International – the governing body of the London Stock Exchange – following industry lobbying alongside the CSSA, announced the creation of a separate IT sub-sector index for 1 Jan-

Many smaller IT firms' profits growth is equal to or better than their bigger brethren

uary 1998. The idea was to lift the profile of IT companies on the stock market, where, with the exception of the leading companies, they have not performed as they might mainly due to a lack of understanding in the City. Despite continuing controversy over the somewhat arbitrary

selection of the constituents of the 99-strong sub-index – at present drawn mainly from the support services and electrical sectors of the main exchange – no one doubts the decision has been good for the industry as a whole.

In the month following the FTSE announcement, share prices in some IT firms – Misys, Sema, Admiral and Sage – shot up by around 15 per cent. As of this month, the index as a whole is up by over 80 per cent on the year, outperforming the market by a phenomenal 65 per cent as the City's institutions have rushed to re-weight their funds with IT stocks.

All this, of course, is not news in America, where the Nasdaq – the technology composite index billed as "the stock market of the next 100 years" – has for years crested on a wave of enthusiasm for all things digital in the US financial community. The index lists such firms as Microsoft, Intel, Cisco Systems and Dell. All have seen their share valuations rise in line with the pace of digital adoption; for instance, Microsoft earlier this year became only the

second company in history ever to achieve a market valuation in excess of \$200bn. So where would you place bets on the UK's IT industry?

It does seem that the opportunity has already been missed with the highest-profile firms. For in the absence of better industry understanding, investors have sought safety in the biggest stocks. As a consequence, it is these companies which are the most highly valued in the City.

For instance, Misys, the software and services company, has seen its market capitalisation – a reflection of its share value against issued stock – rise from £700m in 1996 to £3.8bn in 1998. Two months ago, it became the first IT company ever to enter the FTSE top 100.

Likewise, Logica's market valuation has grown from some £400m to £1.4bn, while Sema, the Anglo-French IT group, has quadrupled to more than £3.2bn. Overall, since the beginning of 1996 the top companies of the sector – Misys, Sema, Sage, Parity, Admiral, Logica, FI Group and CMG – have seen their share prices increase by

a multiple of five, with the real growth in percentage terms coming in 1997 rather than in the first six months of 1998.

These companies now trade on sky-high price/earnings ratios of 50 or more – a standard valuation based on the share price relative to its level of profits and how quickly these profits are expected to grow. By contrast, the average p/e ratio for the whole

Netscape's founders became multi-millionaires the day the firm made its debut on Wall Street

of the UK stock market is around the low 20s, a figure even now thought to be on the high side given the uncertain economic climate. And while buoyant trading conditions mean that the IT firms probably justify such ratings, there is now doubt within the City

whether they can go much higher, at least in the medium-term. As Ian Spence, IT analyst at Granville, the leading City investment bank following the industry, says: "We are still positive about the sector as a whole, but with the top 10 stocks you are talking about an average growth rate of probably around 30-35 per cent. That seems sustainable, but there is not a lot of upside."

So, investing successfully in the IT boom now seems to be about a search for value among the smaller, quality firms. Many are currently realising percentage profits growth equal to or better than their larger brethren, and yet they trade, generally, on significantly lower p/e ratios. As a result, they look much more appealing than the very largest stocks, which are already fully "valued".

The catch is that a smaller company is, by definition, less well-established in its sector and so more vulnerable to business failure. This is where the element of risk sets in: do you make the trade-off of investing in the smaller IT firms in the hope of seeing larger returns, but with the possibility of not realising your initial investment if the company performs badly?

Research by Granville suggests that if you want real growth in investment terms this is now the strategy to adopt in the IT sub-sector. As Ian Spence argues: "The smaller stocks definitely represent better value in terms of p/e to growth ratios. We expect stocks like Triad, MMT, Sherwood International and others around the £100-200 market capitalisation mark to outperform significantly, particularly in the medium term."

All this, however, presupposes stable conditions in the City, facing a deepening Asian economic crisis and a UK economy downturn. IT companies are not recession-proof and their share prices can fall, but given the continuing boom in the IT industry this might be a risk worth taking, particularly in the medium term.

As Ian Spence puts it: "In the short-term we expect some sideways movement and possibly weakness in the [main] index in the summer months. But we feel there will be another strong performance in the IT sub-sector in the last quarter of 1998."

Finally, what about the Internet? America has been quick to embrace its potential. In 1995, Netscape, then a little-known Californian start-up, made its debut on Wall Street and in a single day its shares went from \$15 to \$75, making its founders multi-millionaires. Similarly, Yahoo!, America Online and Amazon.com have all seen their share prices rise.

In the City, there are few Internet firms with a listing on the Stock Exchange. They are mainly on the Alternative Index Market – which has performed poorly since its inception in 1996 – and the OFFEX, where firms such as Easyjet, Internet Technology Group and Fibernet, have seen share prices rise in recent months. For the time being, however, the smart money is on the IT industry itself, as the City demands a proven track record. Remember Sid now?

The incredible thing is that they can talk to me

The new musical *Dr Dolittle* has delighted audiences with its animatronic wizardry. How did they do that? By Meg Carter

Security was tight the night Prince Charles and Harry attended the preview of *Dr Dolittle*, the latest musical extravaganza with Philip Schofield to hit London's West End. So tight, in fact, that radio interference from the myriad of security personnel accompanying the prince caused Polynesia the parrot to fall off her perch. Literally.

Polynesia is one of the puppet stars who, through a combination of "animatronics" wizardry, computer programming and radio control, prove out only that *Dr Dolittle* can talk to the animals but that the animals can talk back.

"It was only a temporary seizure and one of a number of challenges involved in doing a production on this scale live," explains Nigel Plaskitt, the show's animal performance director. His role is to oversee the 92 puppets and 13 operators required to bring back to life Hugh Lofting's classic stories, the basis for the 1967 Hollywood musical starring Rex Harrison. "Nobody's ever done anything quite like it before," he claims. "It's one thing building and operating animatronics for film and television, but quite another to co-ordinate for a live show lasting over two hours which, we all hope, will run for a year at the very least."

Creating and caring for the show's menagerie is the responsibility of specialists at Jim Henson's Creature Shop. "Animatronics" – the art of bringing inanimate objects to life through computer technology, cable control, remote control and hand puppetry – was pioneered by the Jim Henson Company, the originators of *The Muppet Show*, back in the Seventies.

Henson launched a specialist division, Creature Shop, in

1979, specialising in puppet design, manufacturing and performance. Over the years it has produced prosthetics for commercials, TV programmes and movies ranging from *The Dark Crystal* (the first all-creature animatronic feature film), to *Babe*. In the Nineties, it has moved into computer-generated animation and operates its own computer graphics system to marry computer-animated characters with animatronics.

However, a back-to-basics approach was needed for the new *Dr Dolittle* musical, the Creature Shop project supervisor, Nick Rayburn, explains: "For certain characters, hand puppets were designed and built. For those with bigger roles, animatronics were used."

It took more than 60,000 man hours to design, model, mould, insert the mechanics and finish the 92-strong creature cast. Almost all have been made in foam latex and finished in fur or feathers. The complexity of different puppets, however, varies considerably.

The most basic are background creatures used as "set dressing" to create atmosphere. These contain pre-programmable microchips and are connected to what Plaskitt calls a "Look Alive" circuit which remotely runs 10-minute, pre-recorded sequences of movements on a continuous loop. "You'd have to see it many times to realise it's a sequence that these puppets are repeating," he says.

A number of smaller puppets, such as Gub Gub the Pig, are traditional hand puppets whose operators are concealed under set furniture. All operators are trained performers, many of whom do "live" sound effects and voices themselves. Larger puppets are controlled by a combination of "live" operator and radio control,

Toggle the Flough Horse, for example, is controlled by an operator out of sight beneath the creature's felt-covered belly; who creates head movement and facial expressions by working a complex mesh of rods and levers. The giant sea snail, a 15ft-high mollusc, is operated

Not only does Dr Dolittle talk to the animals, but the animals talk back

mechanically by six people – two of whom work a counter balance arm to make the snail's head rise and fall.

Others, like the Pushmi-Pullyu, work through a combination of live operator plus radio control. Two dancers in the double-headed creature are responsible for walking and other leg and head movements, while subtle facial movements,

such as ear, mouth and eye twitches, are radio-controlled by two more operators off-stage.

Last but not least there is the parrot Polynesia – the most complex puppet character. Polynesia is, in fact, "played" by four different parrots – two glove puppets and two animatronics, radio-controlled by an operator in the wings.

Polynesia's animatronic stand-ins are controlled by operators using specially modified model aircraft radio control sets. When carried, actors have to wear a specially designed piece of body armour beneath their costumes containing the wires and chips required to control her movements.

A particular challenge is matching the pace of each night's performance with the character's pre-recorded voice-over by Julie Andrews, Plaskitt adds.

"There were a number of challenges presented by doing this sort of production," Nick Rayburn adds. "For a start,

because it's seen in the round you have to be extremely careful no one in the auditorium sees the operators behind. You also have to build in a support mechanism in case something goes wrong. A particular concern was radio frequency interference from microphones and passing planes."

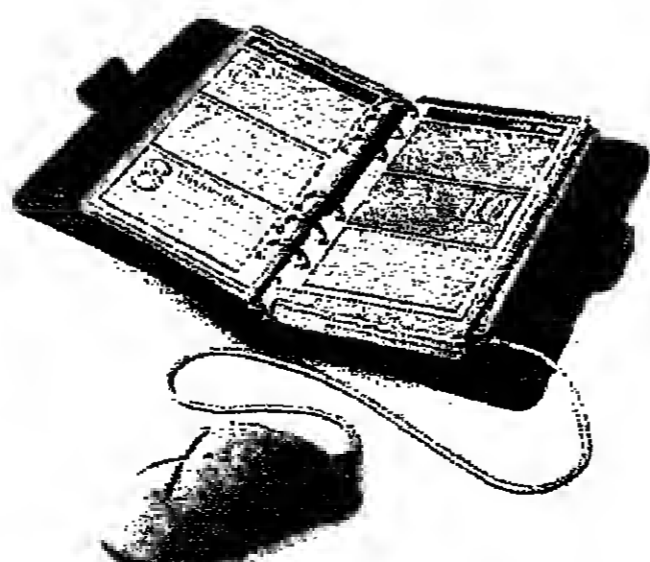
As back-up, the more important creatures' facial movements, radio-controlled "live" by off-stage operators, have also been recorded on to a chip embedded in each, to provide a basic sequence of movements so they do not, literally, die on stage.

Even these precautions could not help the Grand Finale – where *Dr Dolittle* flies across the auditorium on a mechanical Lunar Moth – on the night a woman in the circle decided to make a mobile phone call. Schofield and moth momentarily stopped dead in their tracks, right above her head. Rayburn, Plaskitt and co are keeping fingers firmly crossed these will be the only technical



Creature Shop went back to basics for the 'Dr Dolittle' puppets

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Fax: 01525 243436
employment.appointments@luton.ac.uk
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Martin Underbridge quoting Ref: ML2005 at
ERS Technical



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VISION
IT Recruitment

End to End Solutions VB

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SAP Project Managers are required to join this market leader in the competitive world of SAP Consultancy. You will be able to build close working relationships with clients and lead teams of talented specialists to ensure effective systems solutions. Even if you are not operating at Project Manager level at the moment, this is your chance to move your SAP configuration skills to another level.
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Newbury, Berks. To £40,000 + Benefits
Working for the largest Mobile Telecommunications Company, you would receive all the benefits you would expect including FULL RELOCATION, Excellent Salary and Benefits Package, Training and Development. Not only this but you will work on Oracle v8 with Developer/Designer 2000 tools. You will need at least 1 years Oracle v7 experience with SQL, UNIX and C. Any Business Objects experience would be advantageous.
Ref: ID-7141IN

Delphi Derivatives!

Senior Delphi Developers
London £££Excellent
This is a brilliant chance, to get into the world of futures, options, equities and all the other exciting financial words. You must have at least 2 years experience in Delphi 3, an understanding of Pascal and be able to work well in a team. Call Pam Jennings on 0171 839 2826.
Ref: PJ-7081IN

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London £££Excellent
A Senior fun loving MSAccess developer is required for an exciting, marketing environment. Located in the City this is an ideal opportunity for someone with, version 2/7 and a strong background in SQL to liaise and advise clients on solutions. Please call Pam NOW on 0171 839 2826.
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Have fun at work again!
London Up to £25,000
A young, friendly, informal (i.e. casual dress) but hard-working and dynamic software house providing IT Solutions to the Music Industry require programmers with around eighteen months of commercial experience in COBOL programming. Rapid career path consists of initially programming, moving quickly on to development and then consultancy. Speed up your career in a fun environment. Call Jason Abston on 0171 839 2826.
Ref: JA-7101IN

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London (City) £28,000 upwards
World class developers of financial applications for derivatives and securities are keen to expand their development team. They are looking for experienced Software Engineers with between 1-3 years Visual C++ experience. Projects are Windows NT, BS and now Windows 95 based. Call Darren Liscoe on 0171 839 2826.
Ref: DL-7111IN

Systems Analyst

Cheltenham, Gloucestershire To £30,000 + Excellent Benefits
Highly energetic Systems Analysts are required to work for a leader in the Financial Solutions market. You will be responsible for defining systems requirements, investigations, analysis and systems testing. You will have a proven background in this field and feel comfortable in a client facing situation.
Ref: GR-7051IN

Telecommunications!

Visual Basic and/or Java
Chesham, Bucks. To £35,000 p.a.
My client provides telecommunications switch equipment and services to clients around the world. They currently require four programmers with Visual Basic and/or Java experience of at least 18 months to work on bespoke solutions. A good working knowledge of the telecommunications industry along with any C or C++ would also be an advantage. To learn more please contact Nick.
Ref: NB-7061IN

Geographical Information Systems

Wiltford To £30,000
Market Leader in the fast-growing field of GIS systems with an internationally renowned range of products and tools. Working in the consultancy group, you will design and develop GIS applications using ArcInfo, ArcView, Oracle databases, and Visual Basic or Delphi. You must have at least one year of practical experience using any GIS tools, and a continuing interest in GIS.
Ref: MD-7071IN

Visual Basic Software Engineers

Horsham, Sussex To £35,000
Leading international multimedia solutions provider, with offices throughout the world. Due to expansion require Visual Basic developers with Windows NT and ODBC objects. Any RDBMS a benefit. Working on key project based developments as part of a small, well focused team. Outstanding career opportunities for dynamic, motivated candidates.
Ref: JS-7071IN

Internet Manager

Oxford Up to £33,000
This advert will self destruct in 30 seconds so quickly read on! Classified Internet Manager required by expanding successful Oxford based company who deal predominantly in the retail industry. The successful candidate will have managed a team of 18+ people, have an understanding of the Internet pages and be accustomed to degree level. You will also have an excellent command of the English language and a proven track record in man management. It is this you contact us now for more details on how you can make a difference.
Ref: JC-7021IN

Business Solutions Manager

Milford, Surrey Up to £35,000
Business Solutions Manager required by expanding software solutions and consultancy company who predominantly focus on the Pharmaceutical Sector. You will have a minimum 2 years on the Pharmaceutical side coupled with proven man Visual Basic Programming skills and project management experience. Database management and project management experience. You will be responsible for the Access/SQL Server/Oracle, etc. You will be responsible for the delivery of systems and software for use at client sites and systems that are used internally for data processing. Excellent opportunity to join professional yet personable team.
Ref: JC-7031IN

Powerbuilder Development

Northwood, Middlesex To £32,000
Northwood company involved in the development of innovative company involved in the development of innovative applications for Human Resource Management and Personnel departments are now seeking a range of developers. Ideally you will have acquired between 6 months to 5 years experience of any version of Powerbuilder. This is not just straight GUI building, you will actively be involved in the full development life cycle.
Ref: JS-7041IN

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KEELE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Computer Science
Computing Officer/Senior Computing Officer

The Department is seeking graduate (or equivalent) to join the computing support team which assists the academic staff in teaching, research and administration. Candidates should have had experience of programming and using distributed operating systems and have an interest in programming both teaching and user support using a wide range of software and hardware.

An appointment as a Senior Computing Officer will be considered for a candidate who is able to undertake a co-ordinating role.

Salary depending on experience ALC £16,462 - £23,241.
For application forms and further particulars please WRITE quoting the post reference number ALC98/04 to the Personnel Department, Keele University, Keele, Staffs ST5 5BG or FAX: (01782) 583471 or EMAIL: Vacancies@keele.ac.uk

Closing date 31 July 1998
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

BIRKBECK COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
Central Computing Services (CCS)

WORLD WIDE WEB EDITOR

This is a new post created by the College to assist with the development and implementation of an overall Web strategy. The successful candidate will be expected to establish appropriate policies, standards and guidelines to maximise the effective use of the College Web site for recruitment and promotion of College's activities. The post will be based in CCS but the post-holder will need to work closely with staff in the External Relations Office and in academic departments.

Applicants should possess a degree or equivalent qualification and have experience of developing and maintaining a corporate Web site. Up-to-date technical knowledge and experience of Web authoring and an awareness of the importance of graphics and design for the effective delivery of Web content are essential requirements. Applicants will need to have excellent communication skills, enthusiasm and the ability to work on their own initiative.

The appointment will be made on the Academic-Related Grade 2 or 3 scale: £20,403 - £25,785 - £31,182 per annum (inclusive of £2,134 p.a. London Allowance), depending on skills and experience.

For details and application forms please send a large (A4) set to the Personnel Officer, Ref: CC015/G, Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HX. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Thursday 30 July 1998.

The College's web site can be visited at: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk>

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Department of Computer Science

Computer Systems
Support Staff

(Reference CL002)

We are seeking two enthusiastic staff with a strong interest in supporting UNIX and Windows systems across a range of hardware, and to support the advanced networks and multimedia facilities used in our research and teaching. Applicants will have some systems experience with UNIX or Windows.

The vacancies are:

Head of User Support & Applications
Windows System Administration
& Support Officer

Salary is in the range £17,596 - £25,375 including London Allowance.

For further details and an application form see: <http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/teaching/careers/vacancies/index.html>, or phone 0171 418 3878, or e-mail svacancy@csucl.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday, 31st July 1998.

Working toward Equal Opportunity

Analyst/Programmer

(min 5 years developing experience)

Required for conversion/development of the Travel Industry software, 2000 and EURO compliant and porting the application on the WEB (Internet).

Skills: (OS) Unix, Windows (Languages) Informix 4GL, HTML - Cold Fusion (DB) Informix (Graph) Corel 7, Photo Shop. Fluent in English, Italian and Yugoslavian, writing two alphabets (Latin and Cyrillic). Salary according to experience and qualifications.

CVs to: Bripal Limited, 13 Park House, Battersea Park Road, London SW11 4NB

MEGATRON Corporation Limited (MCL) is a company incorporated in the UK providing Software Development services. MCL has a Development Centre in India based in Mumbai (Bombay). We are currently seeking software development/re-engineering/conversion projects for Corporates in India and the UK. We have urgent requirement for the following positions in the UK:

Senior Systems Analyst - Internet Technology
Minimum 5 years solid Design, Development, and Testing experience in the Networking and Communications industry in Products Development in UNIX/NT/Win 95/98 and Windows environment and conceptual understanding of intranet and extranet preferred. Salary offered GBP 25-35K Gross.

Systems Analyst - Year 2000 Methodology
Minimum 2 years experience on developing tools and utilities for the full cycle of Millennium compliance on MYSESA, TSO-SFF, VMSM, DCS, & DB2. Salary offered GBP 22-30K Gross.

We require team players with a University Degree with willingness to relocate within and outside the UK depending upon project requirements. A relocation package will be provided. We also offer 28 days annual vacation and a unique opportunity to grow with a young organisation.

Interested candidates are requested to mail to, e-mail their CVs to: recruitment@megatron.co.uk or fax to: +44 151 257 9300 email: recruitment@megatron.co.uk No agencies Please

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THE INDEPENDENT

On Monday 3rd August 1998, The Independent will feature positions for the Oracle skillset within the Network pages.

This will provide an ideal forum for both advertisers and professionals within this highly sought area.

EDISS Manager

Education Department Information
Systems Support
Post No E2110

£23,958 - £25,884 pa

Leicester City Local Education Authority is looking for a highly motivated and experienced individual to manage its Information Systems Support team. The team is responsible for providing IS/IT training and support to local schools and is committed to providing a quality service.

The position offers considerable scope for the development of the team and the successful candidate will have a real opportunity to help to raise standards of education in Leicester schools through the use of information systems and IT.

To be considered for this post you must:

- > have three years experience of working in an IS/IT environment including experience of planning and delivering training and support
- > possess effective leadership, organisational and analytical skills
- > have experience of planning and controlling budgets
- > be able to work under pressure and be business orientated

It would also be helpful if you had some experience of working in local government.

Closing date 5th August 1998.

Interview dates 21st and 24th August 1998.

Job Shoppers welcome - no partner required.

Disabled persons meeting the

essential characteristics of the jobs are guaranteed an interview.

Application forms and further details available from: The Job Shop, Leicester City Council, New Walk Centre, Leicester LE1 6ZG



Personal callers welcome 8.30am-4.30pm weekdays. Telephone 0116 252 7099 (24hrs) Minicom service office hours only.

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Information Technology Centre

PERMANENT & TEMPORARY
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS
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TECHNOLOGY

Applications are sought from suitably qualified persons for permanent and temporary academic appointments in Information Technology, commencing in September, 1998. A number of permanent appointments will be made at College Lecturer or Junior Lecturer level; several Contract Teaching posts will also be filled. In all cases, candidates should have a strong academic background in Computing or related area, ideally holding a post-graduate qualification. Candidates should also have IT teaching experience and a significant track record in applied computing research or industrial practice.

Candidates for the permanent posts should have teaching, research or industrial experience in at least one of the following areas: advanced programming, artificial intelligence, distributed systems, image processing, software engineering, network and telecommunications software, computer architectures, and embedded systems. Successful applicants will have a strong commitment to course development and will be expected to develop a substantial programme of collaborative research in the field.

For informal discussion, contact:

Dr. G. Lyons, Director IT Centre, Tel: 353-91-750382.

Further information may be obtained from:

The Personnel Office, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.

Tel: 353-91-750360; Fax: 353-91-750523;

E-mail: Personnel@nuig.ie

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday, 24th July, 1998.

National University of Ireland, Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

To advertise in this section please call the
NETWORK team on 0171 293 2312.

NEW FILMS

THE THIEF (15)

Director: Pavel Chukhrai
Starring: Misha Philipchuk, Vladimir Mashkov
The Thief is a familiar story, told with competence, but it's only the passionate acting, which makes the film special. In his investigation into the psyche of a six-year-old Russian boy in the aftermath of the Second World War, writer-director Pavel Chukhrai tries for that brand of unforced poetry pioneered by Louis Malle and by Tarkovsky. Unfortunately, he doesn't quite pull it off.
Chukhrai does too much of the work for his audience; his film is most striking when it rests on intuition, such as when it is building the relationship between the child Sanya (Misha Philipchuk) and his mother's lover, Tolyan (Vladimir Mashkov), who wears a soldier's uniform but carries a kit-bag bulging with looted crockery and cutlery. He's the film's thief, and the suggestion is that he's stolen the heart of Tolyan (Elizaveta Radnikova) and the innocence of her little boy, too. Chukhrai lets the story unfold until the final 15 minutes, when it seems to go disastrously wrong. He tries to tie up the loose ends, but some of us like to have them flapping around in the memory.
CW: Remor

GODZILLA (PG)

Director: Roland Emmerich
Starring: Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno
New York is in turmoil. People are running through the streets screaming, and though the police are desperately trying to restore calm, even they are wondering if the Big Apple will ever recover.
Yes, Tina Brown has left the building. Oh, and there's also a giant lizard rampaging through the streets, munching on skyscrapers. But never mind all that: what next for Tina?
The team of Roland Emmerich (director and co-writer) and Dean Devlin (producer and co-writer) are generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun (Stargate and Independence Day), but their touch evades them on Godzilla. The script losses in characters and conflicts which aren't followed through, and

it doesn't take long for it all to descend from a nuclear-age parable to a numb, dumb succession of chases.

It's hard to imagine who might get a kick out of Godzilla, except for New Yorkers who like to imagine their city starting again from scratch.
CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U) Animated Feature

Director: John Musker and Ron Clements
Re-released for the summer holidays by Disney, this film provides an odd, unexpected treat. Bright and breezy in style, even its songs are good.
CW: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Director: Steve Comer
Starring: Barney the Dinosaur
Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur whose blend of nursery rhymes, day-glo colours and moral lessons make him ideal for the pre-school viewer - but an endurance test for anyone else.
CW: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

LIFE IS ALL YOU GET (18)

Director: Wolfgang Becker
Starring: Jürgen Vogel, Ricky Tomlinson
Beginning with a riot in Berlin and a man discovering he may be HIV positive, this film really takes you by surprise. In this gritty and absurd film the drama is never diminished by the humour; and the comedy has real poignancy.
CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minerva

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

THE STYLISH stream of re-releases can gladden the hearts of thumb-twiddling audiences and gnarled film critics alike. In John Boorman's 1967 thriller Point Blank, Lee Marvin stalks a sparse, forbidding L.A. searching for the partner who betrayed him and the cash bounty that is rightfully his. The expressionistic mise en scene creates a world that is more sinister than the gangsters who inhabit it could ever hope to be.
On selected release

Grease hasn't improved with age, but at least it hasn't dated either. And it does provide yet more proof, as if we needed it, that John Travolta (left) is a volcano of charisma. It isn't his best performance (he came closer in Saturday Night Fever and Brian De Palma's Blow Out), though he does make this dumb film feel like fun.
On general release

Art Richard Ingleby

THE AMERICAN artist Bruce Nauman is probably best known for his neon text pieces, such as "Human Nature/Life Death/Knows Does Not Know" (right). More importantly, perhaps, he is also the single biggest influence on the current generation of British artists so beloved by Charles Saatchi. Everywhere you look at the Hayward Gallery, Nauman's work from the last three decades seems to anticipate the likes of Hatsumi, Quinn, Whiteread and countless others. This thoroughly revelatory exhibition confirms Nauman's place as one of the most influential artists of our time.
Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-921 0600) to 6 Sept



Theatre David Benedict

ANYONE INTERESTED in sex, love and power (ie virtually everyone) should drop everything to see Cheek by Jowl's electrifying production of Much Ado About Nothing. It's one of the finest productions of Shakespeare in ages, strikingly funny and closes on Saturday.
Playhouse Theatre, London WC2 (0171-839 4401) 7.30pm
Across the river, there's the revival of Oklahoma! by Trevor Nunn (right). It banishes carry old notions of bad "musical comedy" acting and the dance numbers make your pulse race. Tickets are disappearing faster than free beer.
National Theatre, London SE1 (0171-452 3000) 7.15pm, except Wed 7pm and Sat matinee 2pm



Comedy James Rampton

HAVE YOU ever seen science as one of life's fundamentally funny subjects? If not, then you might be pleasantly surprised by Rich Fulcher. A former member of the innovative improv troupe, Modern Problems in Science, which solved the most complicated conundrum in the most laughable fashion, this American comedian has now branched out on his own, doing similarly ludicrous things with the help of a pipe and a professional air.
Canal Café Theatre, London W2 (0171-289 6054) 8pm
Having harangued audiences as Alan Parker (Urban Warrior), the talented character comedian Simoa Muanery (above) now takes them to task as the Nietzschean League Against Tedium. With a stream of sophisticated, sometimes obscure quasi-philosophical ranting, he roasts the punters as being loathsome quasi-worms. It can be surprisingly entertaining.
Hen & Chickens Theatre, London N2 (0171-704 2001) 8pm



GENERAL RELEASE

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel deciding whether or not to exchange his celestial immortality for domestic bliss with the mortal Meg Ryan in the American take on Wim Wenders's Wings of Desire. West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser and a junkie with a mouth to live and give them some time together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Perhaps it's the realisation that Dream With The Fishes could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem deserved. West End: Metro

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Teaser which stars Breoda Bletyn as a cancer-sufferer who jets off to Las Vegas for a last holiday with her sister-in-law, played by Julie Walters. Initially bubbly, the film becomes grossly manipulative. CW: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)

Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

GURU IN SEVEN (18)

A thoroughly dismal, witless British comedy which comes on like an Asian version of the Sixties classic, Alfie. CW: ABC Piccadilly, Virgin Trocadero

KISS OR KILL (18)

Australian road movie come serial killer drama about a couple of scam merchants. Pretentious in some places, it still manages to be agreeably nasty in others. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Camden Town

KURT & COURTNEY (15)

Compulsive documentary, directed by Nick Broomfield, investigating the death of the Nirvana frontman, Kurt Cobain, and the conspiracy theories which emerged in the wake of the event. CW: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A dip into the life of the Beat icon Neal Cassidy, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)

Comedy, starring John Hurt and Jason Priestley, concerned with the relationship between art and life. Writer-director Richard Kwietniowski takes great care in tracing the areas where they overlap. CW: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Remor, Richmond Filmhouse, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

MAD CITY (15)

Dustin Hoffman plays a reporter caught in a hostage situation in a museum, where a disgruntled ex-employee, played by John Travolta, has produced a gun in an attempt to get his job back. The film becomes a series of reflex attacks on the moral bankruptcy of television and, by extension, the late 20th century. CW: ABC Baker Street, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MIMIC (15)

Mira Sorvino is a doctor who combats a virus that's sweeping New York by developing a rival cockroach species in this ingenious science-fiction horror fable. CW: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MOJO (15)

Set in a mythologised 1950s Soho inhabited by petty gangsters, Mojo never entirely escapes its theatrical roots. But it concentrates on sexual tussles in a way which American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: Plaza, Warner Village West End

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his B-movie Jennifer Aniston's dreams of weddings and joint burial plots by turning out to be gay. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

PALMETTO (15)

Ironic film noir directed by Volker Schlöndorff. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-coo who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

PONETTE (15)

French tale of a four-year-old girl (Victoire Thivisol) whose mother dies in a car accident. The young Thivisol is superb, yet it's hard to deny discomfort at watching one so young parade emotion this raw and primal. CW: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

SAVIOR (18)

Politically inept war film set in Bosnia. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and avenges their deaths by gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer before becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SLING BLADE (15)

Intelligent and unsettling drama starring writer-director Billy Bob Thornton as a meekly disabled man who is released into the outside world after speeding his life in an institution. CW: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)

Implausibly contrived romantic comedy in which Harrison Ford plays a boozey pilot who crash-lands with a New York magazine editor (Anne Heche) on a remote island. CW: Barbican Screen, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)

Spook of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for Leon the Pig Farmer. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)

The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, but thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and moving experience. West End: Remor

TOUCH (15)

Paul Schrader's adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel turns a breezy satire into a rather heavy-handed investigation into religious conviction. CW: Plaza

THE WAR AT HOME (15)

Tale of a traumatised Vietnam veteran on his return home to Texas adapted from James Duff's Broadway play. Homefront. CW: Plaza

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-935 9772) @ Baker Street
Godzilla 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm
Mad City 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 8.25pm Sliding Doors 6.10pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-935 9772) @ Piccadilly Circus
As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm
Washington Square 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-337 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus
Guru In Seven 3.25pm, 8.25pm
Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 1.25pm, 6.10pm
Mrs Brown 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0171-938 6279) @ Leicester Square
Leicester Square/Courtyard Road/Kiss Or Kill 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Live Flesh 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square
Piccadilly Circus Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
Life Is All You Get 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
My Son The Fanatic 6pm
Shall We Dance? 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
City of Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Object of My Affection 3.50pm, 9.15pm
The Object of My Affection 3.50pm, 9.15pm
The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican
Love And Death On Long Island 8.40pm
Point Blank 6.15pm
Sling Blade 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Love And Death On Long Island 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-898 2242) @ Clapham Common
Godzilla 12noon, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm
Life Is All You Get 1.30pm, 9.30pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm
Sling Blade 3.45pm, 9pm
Sliding Doors 1.15pm, 6.45pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Titanic 2.30pm, 7.30pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-733 4956) @ Elephant & Castle
Godzilla 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm
Mad City 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
Godzilla 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9pm
Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-737 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate
Love And Death On Long Island 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Barney's Great Adventure 12.30pm, 2.20pm, 4.15pm
Godzilla 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm
The Little Mermaid 12noon, 2pm, 4.10pm
Mad City 6.15pm, 9pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 8.30pm
The Wedding Singer 8.45pm

METRO

(0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square
Love And Death On Long Island 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Ponette 3pm, 1.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-226 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Life Is All You Get (Das Leben Ist Eine Beustelle) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Godzilla 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town
Cotzille 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm
Kiss Or Kill 3.20pm, 8.40pm
The Object of My Affection 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm
Seven Nights 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 5.10pm, 9pm
Sling Blade 1.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm
The Wedding Singer 12.05pm, 2.40pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Kensington City of Angels 7pm, 9.40pm
Godzilla 6pm, 9.10pm
The Object of My Affection 6.45pm, 9.30pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 7pm, 9.35pm
The Wedding Singer 7.15pm, 9.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
City of Angels 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Godzilla 11.30am, 1.15pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 5.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 12.15pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm
The Little Mermaid 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.50pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
As Good As It Gets 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Point Blank 6.30pm, 8.55pm
The Replacement Killers 6.35pm, 8.45pm
Scream 2 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
The Big Lebowski 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
City of Angels 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm
The Little Mermaid 1pm, 3pm, 5pm
Point Blank 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm
Sliding Doors 6.50pm, 9pm

ODEON WEST END

(0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
The Object of My Affection 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley
Live Flesh 1.15pm, 4.45pm
The Wedding Singer 6.40pm

PLAZA

(0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly Circus
Deep Impact 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm
Godzilla 1.15pm, 4.5pm, 8pm
Major 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm
Touch 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.15pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square
Love And Death On Long Island 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm
The Thief 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA

(0171-254 6677) @ Dalston Kingsland
Godzilla 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-737 2121/733 2229) BR @ Brixton
The Big Lebowski 9.25pm
Godzilla 3pm, 6.15pm, 9pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.45pm, 7.05pm
Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm
Godzilla 1.15pm, 4.5pm, 8.20pm
Love And Death On Long Island 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
Vie De Rose 3.05pm
The City of Lost Children 3.05pm
Sling Blade 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Withnail & I 2.45pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street
Kurt & Courtney 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 8.55pm
Love And Death On Long Island 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

Anastasia 11.30am
Kurt & Courtney 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) @ Balise Park
Love And Death On Long Island 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
(+ Short Story 8.50pm)

UCI WHITELEYS

(0171-792 3332) @ Bayswater
Anastasia 11.30am
Barney's Great Adventure 11.15am, 1pm, 3.05pm, 5.05pm
City of Angels 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm
Godzilla 1.10am, 11.40am, 2.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 9.05pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 6.55pm, 9.35pm
The Little Mermaid 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm
Mad City 1.1

MONDAY TELEVISION

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 20 July 1998

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

LITTLE WHITE LIES was shot on digital video, which should be irrelevant for the average viewer but left, for one thing, the distinctive qualities of the format, are visible to the naked eye and they are not all advantages.

This is a relatively unfamiliar technique in drama, so it may be that spectators are still solving problems of lighting and composition but, to my eye at least, it makes the pictures much clearer and bolder in the tonal range, so that the programme was more like an unusually Gothic episode of *Crestfallen* than a proud ornament for the weekend schedule.

In documentary, where digital video has been used quite widely this economy of vision hardly matters – the format brings is not at odds with what you want to achieve. But in drama, the same quality produces an odd paradox – because the register is one we associate more readily with reality, with footage of real people. Almost everything that happens looks more artificial than it would do on film.

This was particularly conspicuous in an early scene from Philip Saville's two-part thriller, when the recently bereaved Beth (Theresa Fitzgerald) is talking to Julia (Claire Lough). Both women's make-up was spotless, an element of glamour that was strangely conspicuous in this resolutely unglamorous medium – it was as if they had turned up for a wedding video rather than been caught at a moment of psychological turmoil. It is true that the cosmetic detail may have been a shortcoming of the drama (rather like the suggestion that Beth would do her commercial landscaping in a private white sweater) but the format didn't give it any place to hide. And where the technology offered advantages – as in the computer-created image of Beth's horse painting life – they were employed for the effect that were at odds with the overall story.

There was much Gothic material in the first half, including some extremely nasty nightmare sequences (Philip Saville certainly knows how to goosebump his audience), but what the drama needed overall was more emotional subtlety rather than this digital ecstacy.

Curiously, several of the performances seemed stiff and uncomfortable, too – even from veteran like Peter Bayliss – and there were odd jolting leaps to continuity that suggested the last-minute exclusion of intervening scenes: at one moment, Beth was driving away from a quick roll in the hay with the hunky builder; the next she was sitting up in bed while hunky builder and his girlfriend looked on seductively from the bedside.

I missed much of what she said next because I was too busy trying to construct scenarios which could plausibly explain this development – had she called them into her board for a kind of royal levee? Had she fainted in an excess of post-coital tristesse and been rescued by the very woman she had deceived?

If *Little White Lies* had been an Asian film short story ended up in bed together. They would have done this for the celebration of a Farhan businessman who paid him a dollar a page to produce hand-crafted post for him, thus unwittingly securing her status as a cult writer. After the publication of her narcissistic and possibly unreliable diaries had made her into a figurehead of sexual exploration, these fiscal tales were treated – by some readers at least – as serious literature rather than verbal Viagra. In California, some of her more earnest followers even described themselves as Ninjas, a word that, presumably, doesn't mean there what it means here.

Arthur's film about the writer deceived throughout with slightly puzzling images of a drug queen at her toilette, had the effect of steadily diminishing the status of its subject – revealing her as a genius of self-indulgence rather than sexual independence. "Every one of her sexual experiences was articulated in her diaries, a constant process of self-examination," said the voice-over, at which point, it struck you that "self-examination" is a pretty good description of what Narcissus was up to as he dangled lovingly over the bank of the stream.

BBC1

BBC2

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

8.00 Business Breakfast (87339). **7.00 News** (7) (60223). **6.00 All over the Shop** (7) (5834682). **5.20 Kiboy** (7) (612440). **10.00 Meet the Challenge** (7) (606525). **10.25 Style Challenge Classics** (7) (717240). **10.55 Short Change** (7) (606525). **11.00 News: Regional** (7) (606525). **11.05 Pave the Way** (7) (606525). **11.55 News: Regional** (7) (606525). **12.00 Every Second Counts** (7) (606525). **12.30 A Word in Your Ear** (7) (606525). **1.00 News: Weather** (7) (606525). **1.30 Regional News** (7) (606525). **1.40 Neighbourhood** (7) (606525). **2.05 Perry Mason** (7) (606525).

7.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies (7) (606525). **7.25 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **7.50 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **8.15 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **8.45 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **9.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **9.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **10.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **10.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **11.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **11.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **12.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **12.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **1.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **1.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **2.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **2.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **3.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **3.40 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **4.10 Dink, the Little Dinosaur** (7) (606525). **4.40 Dink, the 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